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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
How would you describe your level of understanding of federalization as it applies to labor in the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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Cancelled Trip
President Barack Obama scuttled an Asian trip in favor of last-minute lobbying at the White House.

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New Caption
The Associated Press is correcting the caption on one of the most famous photos in its library.

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Sandra Drama
As Sandra Bullock's fairy-tale played out on camera, real-life drama may have been brewing behind the scenes.

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» CNMI retains labor control under bill
» Sets floating benchmark in local hiring

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham, center, confers with House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), right, while Deputy Labor Secretary Cinta Kaipat, left seated, and assistant attorney general Eli Golob, left partly hidden, look on during a session break to clarify issues on the omnibus immigration bill that passed the House and the Senate during back-to-back sessions yesterday afternoon.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

LEGISLATURE OKS OMNIBUS IMMIGRATION BILL

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House and Senate passed a Fitial administration-sponsored omnibus immigration bill that asserts CNMI control over nonresident workers, and converts the mandatory 20- to 30-percent local hiring preference into a floating benchmark, during back-to-back sessions yesterday afternoon.

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Obama delays Guam trip anew

» Local officials: More time now for presidential visit to CNMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

President Barack Obama delayed anew his March 22 and 23 trip to Guam en route to Indonesia and Australia to work with lawmakers on the health care reform legislation, which still hangs in the balance.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs announced yesterday that Obama will reschedule his trip to June.

"The President greatly regrets the

Obama

delay. Our international alliances are critical to America's security and economic progress. But passage of health

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FOR ALIEN WORKERS WITH EXPIRING CONTRACTS, NO UMBRELLA PERMITS

Affected workers must convert to federal status—Brown

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Alien workers without umbrella permits whose contracts will expire before November 2011 should convert to a federal status such as a Commonwealth Transitional Worker status, according to Federal Ombudsman Pamela Brown.

She said alien workers whose entry permits will expire before the finalization of the CW visa and have employers willing to continue these workers' employment should go to her office for assistance.

She said the worker should

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High Court affirms decision in school project dispute. **PAGE 5**

Local

Second-degree murder charge vs Hocog dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman dismissed yesterday the second-degree murder charge filed against the suspect in the fatal assault on a jobless man in Kagman.

In a written order, Wiseman said he does not find probable cause to believe that the crime of murder in the second degree filed against Shane Jonathan Hocog was committed. Hocog is suspected of assaulting Larry Gonzales, causing his death.

In Monday's preliminary hearing, Wiseman found probable cause to believe that murder in the second degree, voluntary manslaughter, aggravated assault and battery, and assault and battery, were committed. Wiseman ruled in that hearing that the person who may have committed the offenses is Hocog.

Yesterday, Wiseman amended his order by reconsidering his prior decision on the murder in the second-degree charge.

"Although the court found probable cause that there was an unlawful killing of a human being, it must be with malice aforethought to constitute murder in the second degree," he said.

Malice aforethought, the judge pointed out, usually includes deliberated design to take the life of a person.

In this case, Wiseman said, there appears to be no intent to take a life.

"The only evidence presented at the hearing revealed an altercation, apparently in the heat of a passion, which consisted of one punch by defendant to the facial area of the alleged victim," he said.

Despite yesterday's decision, the 22-year-old Hocog is still being held for the remaining charges.

Arraignment was set for Monday at 9am.

Police arrested Hocog on March 4. Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a $100,000 cash bail for his temporary release.

Gonzales, a 37-year-old Filipino, was pronounced dead by a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center on March 4 at 4:45pm due to severe head injury. He was comatose since being taken to CHC on March 1.

Police said Hocog punched Gonzales in the face near Kagman High School on March 1. Police said the punch caused the victim to fall and hit his head on the concrete pavement.

FAA officials inspect CNMI airports, meet with airlines

During the week of March 1, two representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration arrived to conduct the annual Part 139 inspections of the CNMI's three airports.

Ron Simpson, manager of the Airports District Office in Honolulu, and Steven Hicks, airport certification inspector also from Honolulu, met with CPA management on Monday to brief the new executive director and staff of the inspection schedules throughout the week.

On Monday afternoon and all day Tuesday, the FAA officials and CPA management inspected the Saipan International Airport. On Wednesday, they flew to Rota to inspect the Rota International Airport and Thursday they were on Tinian. Friday was an out-briefing where FAA unofficially advised CPA of its findings and dates for completion.

During the week of March 8, more FAA officials flew in to meet with the air carriers of Saipan and Guam. These meetings, moderated by FAA's Steven Oetzell, were held on March 10 and 11 and were scheduled to familiarize the airlines of what will take place during the rehabilitation of main Runway 7/25. As a part of the project, CPA will convert the parallel taxiway to Runway 6/24 with the financial assistance of the FAA. This means that smaller aircraft will be landing and taking off on Runway 6/24 during times of construction.

This project was awarded to GPPC, Inc. in September 2009 for approximately $12.4 million and is being overseen by Hofschneider Engineering as construction manager.

On March 16 and 17, additional FAA representatives from Honolulu, Seattle, Guam and Los Angeles were on island to hold a Safety Management System panel meeting moderated by Mark Taylor and consisting of experts in all aviation fields from flight procedures, air traffic to technical operations. This panel reviewed the possible risks of the project and ranked then according to each participant's expertise. In the end, the project was considered low risk and CPA will start shortly with the actual construction work. ***(CPA)***

Check out the new CRM office

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Coastal Resource Management Office has moved from its San Jose location on Beach Road to its new office in Springs Plaza, near the Covenant Party headquarters.

Fr. Celso Magbanua Jr. from the Kristo Rai Parish blessed the new office during the official opening yesterday.

CRM director Dr. John B. Joyner presented chief enforcement officer Luis Duenas with a certificate of appreciation and thanked him for his valuable assistance and leadership during the relocation process.

Joyner also thanked the landlord, Helen Al-Alou, from Spring Development Inc. and Michelle Corp. for furnishing the new office. Food and cake were served to visitors who came for a sneak peek at the place.

The new CRM office is designed to have an open atmosphere in line with its environment-friendly motif. The flooring, light fixtures, and furniture are all brand new. There are plants throughout the office and a gym-space has been installed for its employees.

CRM provides assistance in the planning, management, and monitoring of coastal resources and ensuring their sustainable use and development. There are numerous projects and volunteer opportunities at CRM. To learn more visit the new office or the go to the Web site at www.CRM.gov.mp.

Navy, Air Force training on FDM and Warning Area-517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Navy and Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates:

■ March 22-26, from 7:45am to 10:30pm.

■ March 27, from 10am to 12:45pm.

The Navy will conduct training at Warning Area-517 on the following date:

■ March 27, from 6:30am to 6:30pm.

The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from these areas during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(USN)***

Bigger, more accessible office for CUC customers eyed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has opted to move out its present location in favor of a bigger, more accessible facility with wider parking spaces for its clients and personnel.

While vacant government facilities are an option, CUC executive director Tony Muña said that CUC is looking for an area that is easily accessible to customers.

CUC once held its offices in the now-abandoned La Fiesta Mall in San Roque. CUC felt that the San Roque location was too far out of the way so it returned operations to the Joeten building in Dandan.

Currently, the agency is paying a monthly rent of $2,100 for its offices on the first and third floor of the building.

"This situation is considered to be inconvenient for many customers who often need to go upstairs to complete transactions," according to Muña.

The agency's lease is set to expire this month; however, they have not decided on a new location so they will request for a short extension until they find one.

"The request for proposal," Muña said, "is now being finalized and would soon be out."

Besides the "inaccessible" location, the executive director pointed out another serious concern about the building that prompted the agency's decision: cracks from previous earthquakes.

In a visit on Wednesday, *Saipan Tribune* was shown cracks on the floors and walls of the CUC accounting office as a result of a series of earthquakes from earlier this year.

"We definitely have to make our decision very quickly….the building cracks are also among the major concerns that we have. Safety of personnel must be prioritized by any employer," said Muña.

He described the relocation as "all about accessibility and safety" for both customers and personnel.

The executive director also noted the inadequate and unsecured parking lots at the current Dandan location.

Muña aims to get a bigger facility that would accommodate all the offices on the ground floor with secured parking spaces either in front or back of the facility.

However, he has yet to identify the most accessible locations. The Garapan and Middle Road areas are considered to be the most accessible for all of villages.

"Currently, we are in a very high traffic area," said Muna.

"Due to cost saving efforts of the agency, CUC wants to move to a new location, but we're not looking at increasing our cost," Muña added.

It's final: Megarr out of CUC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

There is no ongoing negotiation in the contract of Bruce Megarr and any reconsideration is out of the question because the decision not to renew his contract is now final.

This was the affirmed by Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Tony Muña, who said a notice not to renew Megarr's contract as deputy director for water and wastewater has already been sent to the official.

Megarr's two-year employment term expires this month and Muña has named assistant executive director for operation Abe Utu Malae to temporarily hold the position until Megarr's replacement is named.

"It's final. We don't intend to renew Mr. Megarr's contract and we are advertising the position. We told him about it and informed him that he is still welcome to apply," Muña said.

He said the agency even expressed in the notice its gratitude to Megarr for the two years he served the corporation.

When asked why Megarr's contract was not renewed, Muña admitted that there were some expectations that were not met by the former official.

"We felt we were going in different directions. There were certain expectations for his position…and there are scenarios that we want to look at, other options, now," Muña said.

Megarr earlier claimed that Muña, despite his recommendations to address issues related to the stipulated orders, was "micromanaging" the position.

Muña chose not to comment on the specific allegations besides saying that Megarr was provided authority to decide on areas that fall under his jurisdiction. On other matters, he can only make recommendations.

"There are some decisions that need to come to my office. Yes, he makes recommendations… but there are certain things that fall on my shoulders to make decision because at the end of the day, it's me who is accountable for those things…" he said.

Despite their differences, Muña described his relationship with Megarr as "professional."

"There is no personal basis for saying yes or no to a decision…it's always looking at the best interest of CUC and the customers," he said.

"CUC is not just about running the water and wastewater…but more importantly ensuring power generation and distribution. The stipulated order didn't recognize the power generation crisis. It didn't allow us to solve that problem first, although that was the issue of the day in August 2008," Muña explained.

CUC was placed under a state of emergency in August 2008.

"If we were to manage CUC solely for compliance with [the stipulated orders], we may be sitting here still with Aggreko," Muña said, adding that the public must understand that CUC is dealing with challenges in power, water, wastewater and the stipulated orders all at the same time.

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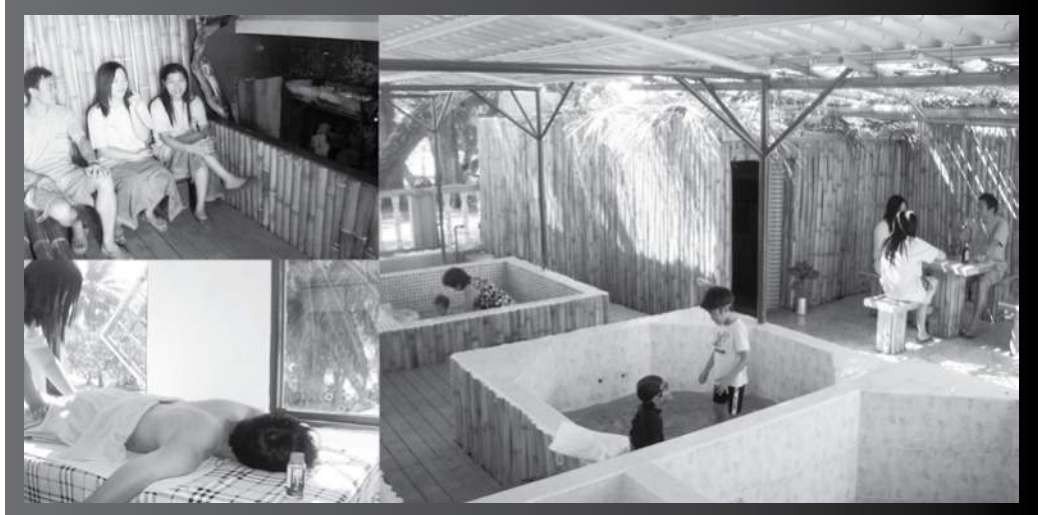

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Feds, alien workers meet in another forum today

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed urged alien workers yesterday to attend today's (Saturday) forum with federal officials regarding umbrella permits and other labor-related issues.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Syed said that Guam/CNMI U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services field office director Walter Haith has confirmed that he will be present at the forum, to be held at the Kilili Pavilion from 5pm to 8pm.

Syed asked workers to come on time at 5pm as Haith is going back to Guam that night.

He hinted that other federal officials, including from U.S. Labor, are expected to attend and answer some questions.

Although federal officials already expressed their views on umbrella permit and other labor and immigration issues during Thursday's forum initiated by the Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter, Syed said many workers did not attend because tickets were sold.

"This forum at Kilili Pavilion will give an opportunity to workers to ask questions and listen to federal officials," Syed said.

He said workers and employers are still confused.

Syed thanked those that are helping workers get information on the issues particularly the umbrella permit. He specifically cited Federal Ombudsman Pamela Brown, Interior Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta, and USCIS district director David Gulick.

BROWN

From Page 1

be accompanied by the employer and they will both be assisted in obtaining parole status and work authorization with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service until a CW visa is granted.

With respect to the CNMI entry permit, Brown said if the alien has an umbrella permit then there is no reason to renew any other permit.

"The umbrella permit supersedes the prior CNMI permit," she stressed.

As for the continued employment with a current employer, the ombudsman said the employer and employee only need to agree to the terms and conditions of employment such as benefits, work hours per week, rate or pay, and basis for termination.

"No other action is necessary since the approval of the federal government or CNMI government is not required for continued employment of an alien holding an umbrella permit," she said.

In the case of workers having Immediate Relative status (240E permit), Brown said the Department of Homeland Security sees an umbrella permit for them as not permitting the holder to work.

Brown's answers here were provided in response to questions posed by the *Saipan Tribune.*

OBAMA

From Page 1

insurance reform is of paramount importance, and the President is determined to see this battle through," Gibbs said in a statement.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has also postponed his trip upon learning of Obama's change of travel plans, press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday when asked for comment.

"While it is unfortunate that the President is not able to make this trip, Governor Fitial also recognizes the importance of President Obama's healthcare bill," Demapan said.

Gibbs said Obama is pleased that the U.S. House of Representatives has posted the health care legislation on the Internet and that a final vote is coming.

"But since the House rules rightly provide for a 72-hour public review period, it is clear that a final vote on health insurance reform cannot take place before Sunday afternoon," he said.

Gibbs said as a result, Obama telephoned the leaders of Indonesia and Australia and told them that he must postpone his planned visits there for a later date so he can remain in Washington, D.C. for this critical vote.

"The President now expects to visit Indonesia and Australia in June," he added.

The sweeping health reform bill would provide coverage to more than 30 million Americans and impose new rules on the insurance industry.

Invitation

House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) said the delay in the president's visit may give the White House more time to consider and plan for a visit to the CNMI as well in June.

Benavente, a former lieutenant governor, introduced a resolution formally inviting Obama to come to the CNMI when he visits Guam.

The House and the Senate separately introduced and adopted two resolution inviting Obama to the CNMI, but they have yet to receive word from the White House.

Demapan said the governor would very much like the president to visit the CNMI and he did mention this to him at the National Governors Association meeting in Washington, D.C.

"The governor also invited Vice President (Joe) Biden during a brief discussion between the two. At this time, it is unknown what additional stops will be included in the President's future travel plans, but when the White House is ready to release new travel plans, Governor Fitial will communicate the possibility of a presidential visit to the NMI," the press secretary said.

Demapan added that assuming Obama will visit Guam in June, barring any other scheduling conflict, Fitial is expected to be present at the invitation of Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho.

Sen. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan), during a session yesterday, said he's saddened to know that Obama would skip the CNMI based on the president's schedules that were delayed.

"I feel the Commonwealth is more strategically important than Guam," he said, adding that Guam is only about 30 minutes away from Guam.

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, however, said yesterday that she has been informed that Nancy Sutley, chair of the president's Council on Environmental Quality, will still travel to Guam for discussions and meetings with local leaders.

Second postponement

This is the second time that Obama's visit to Guam has been delayed.

His original schedule to travel to Guam with first lady Michelle Obama and their two daughters Malia and Sasha was March 18, but this was pushed to March 22 and March 23 also because of the health care reform bill. But in Obama's rescheduled trip, he won't be accompanied by his family.

Prior to the announcement of the second delay, Obama was scheduled to leave Sunday morning for his first foreign trip of the year.

His first stop was supposed to be in Guam on Monday, Guam time.

Then he was headed to Indonesia, the world's most-populous Muslim nation, where he spent some time as a child. Once in Jakarta, Obama was to make his second major address reaching out to the Muslim world.

From Indonesia, he was supposed to travel to Australia for meetings with Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, a key ally in the war in Afghanistan.

Hafa Adai welcome

Guam has been preparing for the president's visit since it was first announced by Bordallo in February, although details about his trip remained sketchy.

Obama was supposed to host a public event Monday night to speak with local Guam authorities and military personnel.

Bordallo said yesterday that Obama will remain in Washington, D.C. to participate in final negotiations on the health care reform legislation.

"This decision underlines the President's commitment to ensuring that all Americans have access to affordable, quality health care, including those in the territories. Although I am disappointed in the announcement that he will delay his visit, I understand the historic importance of needing to pass health care reform and appreciate his continued leadership to ensure the territories are included in the bill," Bordallo said.

The delegate added that she will continue to work with the White House over the coming months to ensure Obama's visit in June is a success.

"However, I appreciate the President's commitment to remain focused on the military buildup and I look forward to Nancy Sutley's visit. Her visit will be important for high-level administration officials to better understand the impacts that the military buildup will have on our community," she added.

CNMI lawmakers said it will be a "great honor" and an "extraordinary privilege" to have Obama pay an official visit to the CNMI while he is in the region.

They said a presidential visit will bring to the fore issues critical to the CNMI, including the recent federalization of its immigration, the military buildup in Guam that will also impact the CNMI, and the creation of the Marianas Trench National Monument and the authorization for a visitor center in the region.

CNMI Public School System students have been writing letters and preparing postcards inviting Obama to come to the CNMI.

Betty Miller, the coordinator for the "Postcards for the President Campaign" and vice principal of San Vicente Elementary School, said the target is to send to the White House at least 10,000 postcards or letters from PSS students by April. They hope to prepare the postcards and letters by March 31, 2010.

The postcards campaign is a joint project between PSS and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP).

If and when Obama visits the CNMI, he will be the first sitting U.S. president to ever set foot in the CNMI.

The highest ranking U.S. official to set foot in the CNMI's capital of Saipan is former President George H.W. Bush, when he was still vice president to former President Ronald Reagan. Bush flew to Saipan on his way to a six-day visit to China in October 1985.

BILL

From Page 1

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is expected to immediately sign the bill when it is transmitted to his office on Monday.

"Governor Fitial is very pleased with the swift action of both houses of the Legislature. He will sign it into law when it reaches his desk on Monday," said press secretary Angel Demapan, who attended the House and Senate sessions with Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham and Deputy Labor Secretary Cinta M. Kaipat.

Republicans in the House, however, questioned the legality, true purpose, and urgency of House Bill 17-25, HS1, which also reorganizes the CNMI Department of Labor.

HB 17-25, HS1, introduced by Rep. Rafael S. Demapan (Cov-Saipan), amends sections of the Commonwealth Code dealing with immigration functions, to reflect the assumption of immigration responsibilities by the federal government pursuant to Public Law 110-229, Title VII, which became effective on Nov. 28, 2009.

House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) said the "questionable" piece of legislation contradicts federal position, which was also highlighted in separate questions-and-answers documents released by the CNMI and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service.

"Is this bill legal, in a way that it does not conflict with or violate federal law?" Benavente asked House legal counsel John Cool. The counsel said in his opinion, the bill is legal and also cited the attorney general's opinion on the matter.

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said the legality of the bill is not for the Legislature to decide.

"It seems to me that the bill pushes the agenda of the governor that the federal government is wrong; that we control labor, not the federal government," said Benavente.

Buckingham said the bill clarifies the role of the CNMI Department of Labor and gives direction to employers and nonresident workers.

Kaipat said the bill "brings clarity" on what's pre-empted and what's not, adding that coming up with the umbrella permit is an ingenuous way to stabilize the workforce and allowed the CNMI to continue to implement the local law.

"I urge all of you to pass this bill today," Kaipat told House members.

As Buckingham earlier said, the CNMI Labor has the authority to revoke umbrella permits, contrary to statements made by Federal Labor Ombudsman Pamela Brown that seem to suggest that an umbrella permit cannot be revoked.

Buckingham also earlier said that CNMI Labor has both the authority and the duty to monitor compliance with umbrella permit holders, and should one or more conditions of the umbrella permit are not met, the umbrella permit may be revoked.

He said the federal government assumed control over entry and exit into the CNMI, but did not replace the CNMI Department of Labor for its activities.

The House unanimously adopted the 27-page standing committee report by Demapan's Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, recommending passage of Demapan's HB 17-25, HS1.

After over an hour of discussion and debate on the measure, HB 17-25, HS1 passed the House on a 16-2 vote, with one abstention and one absence.

Only Reps. Ramon A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan) and Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) voted "no" on the bill, while Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) abstained from voting. Rep. Frederick P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) was excused.

Benavente voted "yes with major reservation," while Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) voted "yes with reservation." Benavente said he still thinks that the bill is questionable.

Immediately after the House passage, Demapan's bill was transmitted to the Senate.

Senators unanimously passed the bill. Only seven of nine senators were present yesterday. Sens. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian) and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) were absent.

Kaipat earlier said the omnibus immigration bill will change the mandatory 20 percent to 30 percent local hiring preference to a floating benchmark based on the population of U.S. citizens and permanent residents on the islands in a bid to reduce unemployment among them.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization in the CNMI, is opposed to a floating benchmark in local hiring.

If enacted, the omnibus bill amends parts of Public Law 15-108, or the Commonwealth Employment Act of 2007. It will delete all regulations of the defunct CNMI Division of Immigration and "move any necessary language over to the labor regulations."

Kaipat said another key provision of the bill is the reorganization of CNMI Labor.

High Court affirms decision in school project dispute

The CNMI Supreme Court has affirmed the Superior Court's decision to reverse the jury's verdict in Century Insurance v. Guerrero Brothers. The unanimous decision was issued Wednesday, March 17, 2010.

The issues between the two parties began in 1993 when Guerrero Brothers entered into a contract with the Public School System to build Tinian High School. The Guerrero Brothers turned to Century Insurance to secure the construction bonds necessary to start the project. A surety issues bonds to guarantee that a contractor will finish a particular project, and if the contractor defaults on its obligations, the bonds require the surety to step in and ensure that construction is completed and that all laborers and suppliers are fully paid. Guerrero Brothers also secured financing from the Bank of Saipan, which the Commonwealth Development Authority guaranteed.

PSS terminated Guerrero Brother's contract to build Tinian High School in 1998, and Century Insurance hired another construction company to finish the project. Several years later, PSS and the Guerrero Brothers entered into a settlement agreement, which among other things, provided that PSS would interplead the remaining contract funds, totaling $867,867.16, into another lawsuit by CDA against Guerrero Brothers.

ON THE NET

CNMI Judiciary's Web site: http://www.justice.gov.mp

Money is interplead when a fixed sum is disputed by different parties, but not by the party holding the funds, and the party in possession turns it over to the court's control for a determination of rightful ownership.

In response to this agreement, Century Insurance sued Guerrero Brothers and PSS, claiming it was entitled to the remaining contract funds, and that neither the CDA nor the Guerrero Brothers had any claim to the money.

Contrary to the settlement agreement, PSS failed to interplead and instead transferred all remaining funds to Century Insurance for the work it performed in completing Tinian High School in exchange for a full release from liability. Due to various motions filed by the parties, when the case came to trial, the CDA and the Guerrero Brothers were suing PSS claiming that it breached the terms of the settlement agreement. The jury returned a verdict in favor of CDA and Guerrero Brothers, but the Superior Court reversed the jury.

It found that pursuant to principles of equitable subrogation, an old and well established legal principle requiring a surety to be fully paid before other claimants may seek compensation from remaining proceeds, that Century Insurance was entitled to the remaining contract funds irrespective of the settlement agreement, and that neither the CDA nor the Guerrero Brothers were harmed by the breach. The Superior Court found that PSS was not liable to either party.

The Supreme Court held that Century Insurance's equitable subrogation rights trumped any rights that CDA or the Guerrero Brothers had to the remaining funds, and that neither party presented enough evidence to overcome this longstanding legal principle. A

The full opinion is Century Insurance Company, Limited v. Guerrero Brothers, Inc., et al., 2010 MP 4 and can be found at http://www.justice.gov.mp/. ***(PR)***

NMI Supreme Court rules lack of jurisdiction in land dispute case

The CNMI Supreme Court issued Tuesday a unanimous decision holding that it lacked jurisdiction to entertain an appeal in the case of *Camacho v. Demapan*.

The case originated as a land dispute between the children of Ana Deleon Guerrero Demapan and her children's children over title to five tracts of land on Saipan on Capital Hill. Ana Demapan, who originally owned all the property, had three children—Eugenia Dela Cruz, Asuncion Demapan, and Gregorio Demapan. When Ana Demapan died in 1969 her three children inherited her property pursuant to the law of the Trust Territory.

In 1992, Gregorio and Asuncion executed deeds to Gregorio's son Jose Demapan to all their interest in their mother's land, which he recorded at the Office of the Commonwealth Recorder. However, between the time of Ana Demapan's death and 1992, Ana Demapan's other daughter—Eugenia—and her husband had made multiple conveyances of their mother's property.

The present suit was instituted in the Superior Court by Eugenia Dela Cruz, her two daughters (Victoria Dela Cruz and Maria Dela Cruz Camacho), and Antonio Camacho (Maria's husband) against Jose Demapan and, as plaintiffs, they filed a quite title action, asking the trial court to declare that they owned the Capital Hill property. They also sued for slander of title, claiming that Jose Demapan should pay them damages for improperly recording the deeds to the property with the Recorder's Office.

The trial court ruled on the ownership issue in favor of the Dela Cruzes and Camachos, holding that they were "entitled to be declared owners of the property in dispute," but reserved judgment on their other claim. Before all the issues were resolved at the trial court Jose Demapan filed an appeal.

Under Article IV, section 3 of the Commonwealth Constitution, the CNMI Supreme Court has jurisdiction over final judgments and orders of the Superior Court. The CNMI Supreme Court has repeatedly held that a judgment or order is not final unless it resolves all the issues between all the parties and leaves nothing for the trial court to do but execute the judgment. In *Commonwealth v. Kumagai*, 2006 MP 20, the high court held that in cases involving multiple parties or multiple claims, a decision that resolves fewer than all the claims at issue is not a final judgment.

Commonwealth Rule of Civil Procedure 54(b) provides an exception to the above rule and allows the trial court to certify for appeal an order that resolves less than all the issues in a case if certain conditions are met. In order to take advantage of the rule, the trial court is required to mention the rule in its judgment and state that it believes that the non-final judgment should be immediately appealable. In this case, the trial court did not certify its partial summary judgment under Rule 54(b), which it is required to do to make a partial order appealable.

Since the order granting partial summary judgment was not a final order within the meaning of the Constitution, the Supreme Court held that it lacked jurisdiction to hear the appeal and dismissed the case.

The case remains pending in the trial court and the Supreme Court stated in its opinion that once all the issues are resolved below, the parties are free to then appeal if they so wish.

The full opinion can be found at the CNMI Judiciary's Web site under "News Archives" on the Home page (http://www.justice.gov.mp/news_archive.aspx). ***(PR)***

Eighth Annual Covenant Day Debate on Monday

The public is invited to watch top junior high and high school debaters square off during the Eighth Annual Covenant Day Debate to be held on Monday, March 22, at the Guma Hustisia, beginning at 6pm.

The event, established in 2003, is sponsored annually by the NMI Council for the Humanities in conjunction with the National Forensic League of the Western Pacific.

The competition promotes research and debating skills and encourages students to examine key Covenant-related issues that affect life in the Commonwealth.

The Covenant is a unique legal document that established the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and defines it relationship with the United States.

This year's debate considers whether or not voting on matters pertaining to Article XII should be restricted to persons of Northern Marianas Descent.

Article XII of the CNMI Constitution restricts land ownership to persons of Northern Marianas Descent. Commonwealth voters may consider retaining, amending or abolishing Article XII in 2011.

The debate will be in a Town Hall format with competitors answering questions on the topic posed by the moderator, veteran debater Patricia B. Coleman.

The event will feature the top two debaters in a Junior Division (7th-8th grades) and a Senior Division (9th -12th grades). Competing in the Junior Division are Kanata Omori and Hye Young Oh, both of Marianas Baptist Academy.

Senior debaters include Jessica Lee of Marianas Baptist Academy and Amber Roberts of Saipan International School.

Debaters will be scored by a panel of three judges including former Representative Cinta M. Kaipat, businesswoman Marian Aldan-Pierce, and Leo Pangelinan who is Dean of Student Services at Northern Marianas College.

First place finishers in both divisions will have their names inscribed on perpetual trophies. Cash prizes will also be awarded.

Interested individuals are invited to call Council staff at 235-4785 for more information about this upcoming event. ***(PR)***

ERRATUM

In this photo published March 18, 2010, the caption incorrectly identified Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz as Francisco Dela Cruz. Our apologies. The correct caption should have read: "Two U.S. military pilots flank, from left, Rear Adm. Douglass T. Biesel, Don Farrell, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, Sen. Jude Hofschneider, Rear Adm. Paul J. Bushong, and Joint Region Marianas special political adviser Roy Tsutsui soon after a visit to the Tinian nuclear bomb pits.

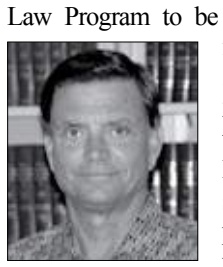
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Stowell named to Judiciary Historical Society post

The Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society's board of trustees has appointed Jim Stowell as executive director at its board's meeting held Tuesday, March 16, 2010.

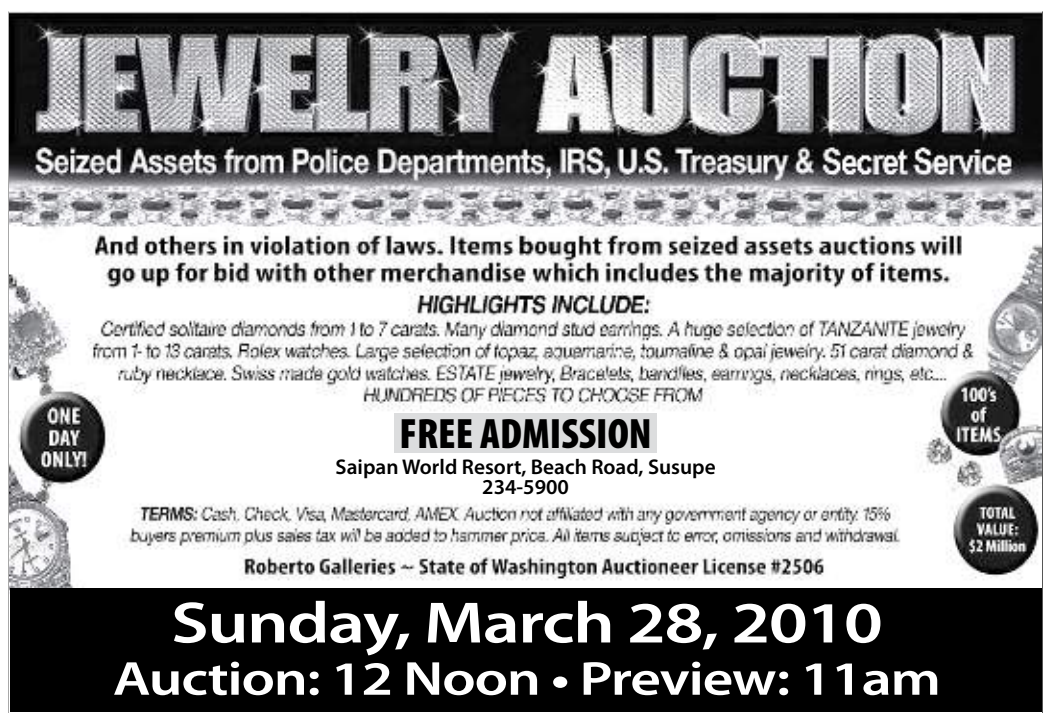
"Jim's managerial skills and respect for history are a great contribution to have attending to the administrative needs of the Society as it presses forward to expand upon its community efforts this year and beyond," said Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, chairman of the Board of the Historical Society.

At the meeting the Historical Society committed to a $5,500 contribution to the Summer Pre-Law Program to be conducted from July 5 to 23, 2010 at the Guma' Hustisia. The program will prepare participants for the first year of law school with emphasis on developing critical thinking and analytical skills needed for the curriculum. The Northern Marianas Bar Association and the Commonwealth Judiciary are co-sponsors of the event and will provide assistance to each participant.



Stowell

The Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society is a non-profit corporation established in November 2003 to conduct and sponsor community outreach programs such as the Justice Teaching Institute, the Prelaw Program, Law Week and the Tafan Eskuela (Let's Go to School) effort, aimed to assist younger members of the community as they begin their education. ***(PR)***


JEWELRY AUCTION
Seized Assets from Police Departments, IRS, U.S. Treasury & Secret Service
And others in violation of laws. Items bought from seized assets auctions will go up for bid with other merchandise which includes the majority of items.
HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:
Certified solitaire diamonds from 1 to 7 carats. Many diamond stud earrings. A huge selection of TANZANITE jewelry from 1- to 13 carats. Rolex watches. Large selection of topaz, aquamarine, tourmaline & opal jewelry. 51 carat diamond & ruby necklace. Swiss made gold watches. ESTATE jewelry, Bracelets, bandlies, earrings, necklaces, rings, etc...
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TERMS: Cash, Check, Visa, Mastercard, AMEX. Auction not affiliated with any government agency or entity. 15% buyers premium plus sales tax will be added to hammer price. All items subject to error, omissions and withdrawal.
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Historic test for the House

House lawmakers should stand up and be counted on the historic vote that will dramatically reshape the nation's health-care system.

So it's troubling that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her lieutenants are planning a backdoor parliamentary move that sidesteps President Obama's call for an "up or down vote."

House members should vote on the health bill the Senate passed, and then on a companion bill to repair flaws in the Senate plan. (Fixes include removing the so-called Cornhusker kickback and other dubious deals used to secure votes from some senators.)

But with some lawmakers fretting over how their vote will impact their re-election—and others distrustful that the Senate will approve the fixes, in turn—Pelosi may allow the House to approve the fixes under a procedure that would then deem the overall Senate proposal approved.

In the end, voters will still know where House members stand on this important issue. With this weaselly maneuver, House leaders risk further angering the sizable number of Americans who oppose the health bill.

Even with the toxic partisan political climate in Washington, it would be better for the country if Congress faces this test of leadership head-on. ***(The Philadelphia Inquirer)***

Broadband, a basic utility for the 21st century

The National Broadband Plan sent to Congress by the Federal Communications Commission is fundamental to the future economic well-being of the United States. Sounds grandiloquent, but it is really that important and basic.

Connecting 100 million American homes to high-speed Internet services will not only link the country to work, school, health care and public safety, but also stir innovation and investment to vastly improve the use and capacity of those online ties.

The director of broadband initiative at the FCC, Blair Levin, noted, "In every era, America must confront the challenge of connecting the nation anew." In the 19th century that meant the railroads, and in the 20th century it was rural electrification and phone service.

The U.S. lags other nations in access to broadband capability and access to affordable networks and devices. One of the goals is to promote greater competition by increasing transparency for consumers on price, speed and availability.

Nearly a decade after the lessons and frustrations of the 9/11 attack, the plan will also give first responders—police, fire and emergency-medical personnel—access to a nationwide, wireless, interoperable public-safety network.

To build out this system over the next decade, the FCC will need more spectrum—the airwaves to carry the signals—and access to poles, bridges and rights of way to wire parts of the nation. Private carriers who have been slow to develop these resources ought to be compensated, but cooperation is a national imperative.

In the spirit of past efforts to unite all of America with current technology, the legislation seeks to ensure uniform access to services across states, rural areas and public institutions, such as libraries. Tribal lands are among the most underserved in the nation.

Putting national broadband into place will cost $15 billion and counting. The money is for a basic investment, and more about catching up than racing out in front of others. ***(Seattle Times)***

Developmental Possibilities Awareness Month

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Being a father of two ASD kids, I keep an eye on events that addresses "developmental disabilities." Thus, the CNMI Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month's daylong gathering yesterday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa came with magnetic force. The published theme, including the exclamation point at the end, presumably, was: *"The Power of Collaborative Doing – The Act of Empowering Others Empowers You!"*

My preconception was that the gathering drummed a heavy beat on self-advocacy, graced by facilitating guests from Albuquerque's Center for Self-Advocacy. The New Mexico Center for Self-Advocacy is a place where persons with disabilities meet, organize, work and train each other on how to improve the quality of life for the "developmental disabilities" community. In turn, self-confidence and self-reliance have been a promoted focus by the offices of the local CNMI CDD, the modus operandi of NMPASI, and the avowed focus of NMC's University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities.

What has been missing among various agencies, in my view, is the clinical wisdom in public administrative services. Occasional attempts to inject scientific know-how by the PSS in its SpEd program is buried by compliance assessment considerations that preoccupies staff, by the dearth of clinically-trained personnel, the high anxiety over central office oversight, and the local school staff's fear of their vulnerability from parents' accountability.

The overwhelming evidence of chemical intrusion to children's metabolic processes, for example, and its impact on the neural system is unmistakable, yet the system is bereft of the means to use such knowledge for educational preventive measures as well as mitigate further impact of the continuing reliance on pharmacological intervention on any malady that comes along. Instead, blaming genetics has been the favored and convenient understated culprit, a conclusion that flies against enormous evidence. Transcending one's "disability," as if it was a situation to be cured or fixed, or at least overcome, is also a favorite metaphor. Patronizing the "disabled" is a common liberal practice.

The previous consensus that lifted an "ideal" homo sapiens' physiology, which measured deficiency against norm, or, the standards of physical profile that condemn "deviants," are finally undergoing a paradigm shift. Based on current wisdom that chaos is at the bottom of our physics, and individual diversity is the universal norm, the view that "disability" is just one's different ability, is ascending. Societal sensibilities looks on individual possibilities rather than on disabilities. The insistence on an Individual Education Plan for every child in Special Education is on target; let us carry it to its logical implication—that every child in the education system requires an IEP of their possibilities!

The published agenda for the day was promising. The facilitators started on time. After the introductions, the CSA folks led an interactive workshop on self-advocacy, focusing on experiences of embarrassments (role playing limits imposed by a disability) as well as identifying comfort zones, recalling the influence of role models, the insidious power of encountered stereotyping, and an exercise of the power partnering and collaborating.

In the morning, the issue of leadership vied for attention with the practical concerns in assistive technology as applied to education. CSA folks led the leadership workshop, a logical segue from the self-advocacy workshop. The presenters focused on leadership traits through group exercises and sharing the result of guided individual reflections such as individual goals and community involvement. The afternoon had three topics: self-knowledge (Know Thyself), legislative lobbying skills (How to Schmooze Your Legislator), and body works (R.O.P.E.S. – Rugged Outdoor Physical Experiential Systems).

Steve Brown of UH-Manoa gave a humorous keynote address, and the technology-challenged presentation was titled "Disability Culture." I thought this was like lumping all the people east of the Dardanelles to Saipan as "Asians," a category that amounts to fiddly-piddly! The word "disability" reinforces the image of set-aside incapable people, needing to be cured or fixed! No fault painting here, and certainly, not on the professor's excellent presentation; after all, "disabilities" is used in our law books and in academic studies. But were we to tell our story, would we tell about being disabled objects of charity and glib recipients of special privileges, or would we be proud subjects to the celebration of just being who we are?

The words, images, and stories we use, and told us, shape the way we see the world, shape the way we experience the world and further shape how we behave in the world. There comes a point in the maturation process when we *must* outgrow many of the words and stories we are told and create new ones. I use "possibilities" rather than "disabilities" in this article to highlight a point already heavily accented in the days gathering, but still labeled by an old and currently pejorative term.

To continue with the disability metaphor, one can say, as one participant did, that everyone has a disability. But as all effective planning methodology will attest, a focus on what is there rather than what is absent is always a winner. "Dis-ability" implies either a deformed ability, or the absence of a requisite ability. It is not even clinically accurate. To continue using the term only deepens the "handicapping" socially imposed on my two kids. And with the content of the gathering, to continue using the term is not only counterproductive, it is downright debilitating!

With the numerous testimonials on YouTube of persons born with "disabilities" blossoming into incredible human beings, it might be instructive to remember that the seed never explains the flower; nor the chrysalis, the butterfly! So it is with people perceived to have been born missing something from the so-called "norm." The powerful self-advocacy video itself attests to the fact that a disability to be overcome is trumped any day by the affirmation of one's possibility fully embraced. Self-advocates, affirm thyself. Banish the pejorative term. Embrace your possibility!

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Myths and misrepresentations about ObamaCare

By CARL LEUBSDORF
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

President Barack Obama's top strategists have belatedly challenged the Republican argument that Congress should kill his health care reform plan because the American people have rejected it.

White House counselor David Axelrod noted on several Sunday shows that, when Americans are asked about key provisions, they support such things as ending the denial of coverage due to pre-existing conditions and requiring all Americans to have health insurance.

Obama pollster Joel Benenson wrote in The Washington Post that, in the few polls that asked detailed follow-up questions, "a significant number of people who oppose current plans do so because they don't go far enough." His argument: If it passes, they'll be on the administration's side.

The contention that Americans have rejected Obama's plan is just one of the myths and misrepresentations clouding the yearlong debate. Here are some others:

■ Democrats are trying to "ram through" a sweeping bill without sufficient debate. Congress has considered the issue for a year and held countless hearings and drafting sessions. The latest version is essentially the same as the Senate-passed version.

One reason the debate lasted so long is that Democrats unwisely allowed bipartisan Senate Finance Committee discussions to drag on, attracting no GOP support but contributing to the failure to complete action last year.

■ The Democrats would twist the rules by using the "reconciliation" process to complete action. This will "destroy the ability of this country to work together for a very long time," Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham warned Sunday on ABC.

Both parties have used this process because it permits a majority to act, rather than requiring a super-majority of 60 because of unlimited Senate debate rules Republicans are using against the bill. It's hard to see how partisanship can get worse.

■ Obama should have put jobs before health care. He did that in the economic stimulus measure Congress passed soon after his inauguration. It's created or saved 2 million jobs, including teachers and public safety officials who would have been fired to meet local and state balanced-budget requirements.

Many economists believe the stimulus, limited to attract Senate Republican votes, was too small. Obama undercut his success in preventing economic disaster by prematurely setting a goal of holding unemployment below 8 percent, a level quickly surpassed, though the recent trend has been positive. Congress also is considering additional job creation measures.

■ Obama's spending is creating a massive deficit, and health care will make it worse. While the stimulus was expensive, the deficit explosion stems mainly from a sharp drop in economic activity since late 2007. The administration predicts its bill would at least slow the rise in the deficit, if not reduce it.

■ Democrats face electoral disaster if they pass a health bill. Failure would help them avoid it. But many believe they would suffer more if they don't produce. Democrats won recent elections because voters felt Republicans couldn't resolve major problems. Passage of health reform would show the Democrats can.

■ Supporting health care could defeat a Democrat in a conservative district. In most cases, the problem is the district, not the vote. Forty-nine House Democrats, many considered vulnerable, represent districts that voted in 2008 for John McCain. The persistence of the recession and the administration's difficulties in passing key measures has hurt vulnerable Democrats with independents.

■ Voting against health care would help conservative Democrats get Republican and independent votes. But it could cost Democratic votes. It's never good to turn off your base.

■ Defeating health care would remove it from the public agenda and get Democrats off the defensive. But the best way to change the political dynamic is to pass it. Then, the issue might become whether Republicans, if they regain Congress, would repeal the new benefits.

Democrats who initially backed the bill will face GOP attacks whether or not it passes. Passing it would let them show they achieved something.

Pollsters Patrick Caddell and Douglas Schoen argue Democrats are pushing an unpopular plan that will sink them politically. But in a tough climate for incumbents, failure to pass it would hurt them and the country more.

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News. *Readers may write to him via e-mail at: carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.*

Letter to the Editor

Supporting health care reform

The Immanuel United Methodist Church in Chalan Kanoa has sent the following letter to our CNMI congressman, Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan:

"Thank you for using all effort to bring meaningful Health Care Reform coverage to the CNMI.

"The Immanuel United Methodist Church has joined 150 faith groups representing Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Muslims and Buddhists urging Congress to complete its movement on behalf of the millions who are left out and left behind in our current health care system. A letter from the groups and thousands of supporters expressing this was recently delivered to President Obama's Administration and all members of Congress. We feel this would not only protect the millions of uninsured people but thus benefit the whole country.

"IUMC strongly supports the United Methodist Church's official position on health care, which states: Health care is a basic human right. Providing the care needed to maintain health, prevent disease, and restore health after injury or illness is a responsibility each person owes others and government owes to all.

"We thank you for continuing to use all effort to pass health care reform."

IUMC feels public support is even more necessary during the next few weeks as Congress deliberates over final passage. We can contact Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan to express concerns:

Saipan Office: (670) 323-2647/8
JCT II Building, Susupe
Toll free: 1 (877) 446-3465
E-mail: kilili@gmail.house.gov

Bryan Jones, *Christian Social Action Chair*
Cris Lumanlan, *Church Council Chair*
Millie Carroll, *Lay Pastor*
Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Why I voted in Iraq's election

By INAM ALI
THE INSTITUTE FOR WAR & PEACE REPORTING

BAGHDAD—I am a 60-year-old Sunni who voted for the first time in my life this month.

My family ignored the previous election. Our boycott helped unfamiliar, alien faces come to power. They wore black suits and made Baghdad a miserable city. Under them, even the weather turned bleak.

I voted in this election because of what I've witnessed in Baghdad over the last years. I have watched people rush to rob the victims of bombings rather than rescue them.

I have seen the society I cherished crumble. I voted for a cultured leader, someone who would restore Baghdad's essence as an Arab city.

Baghdad was a paradise once. I could show you my pictures; the way we dressed in the past, the way people were. I used to go to the cinema with my husband, to the theatre and the ballet.

We went to sports clubs and swimming pools and we stayed out late on Abu Nawas, the main promenade along the Tigris.

Now all that is gone.

I never thought a time would come when going out in the street could get you killed. My children risk death every day when they go to school or to work.

Most of our original neighbors in the Karkh district have moved away. My family has managed to preserve its security by sacrificing all the best things in our lives. We do not socialize freely. Imprisoned in our homes, even our food has lost its flavor. We feel as if we are buried alive.

Until now, elections have been irrelevant to my life.

But this time, I voted because I do not want my descendants to suffer they way I have.

On the morning of Election Day, we heard mortars and bombs going off. The attacks were intended to keep the Sunnis away from the polls, but they had the opposite effect. I would have voted that day even if someone had told me there was a bomb inside the polling station.

I went to cast my ballot in the early afternoon, along with my eldest son. Knowing that I disapprove of his smoking, my husband took advantage of my absence to smoke as many cigarettes as possible.

Later that afternoon, my daughter-in-law and my youngest son went to the polling station.

My husband was the last to vote. He had been fretting all day over whether or not to go, and we had a big argument about it.

The previous week, a neighbor who was running for office had offered my husband a ride to the polling station in exchange for his vote. A short time later, another candidate stopped by, making the same offer.

In both cases, my husband remained noncommittal.

In the end, our sons persuaded him to cast his ballot, assuring him the coast was clear and neither candidate would spot him on the way to the polling station.

Looking back, Election Day was indeed a special day. It was the first time I can remember the entire family sitting together, talking about politics.

It appears that the political bloc I favored will not win the election. And while I find that very disappointing, I at least have a clear conscience. I have broken the habit of a lifetime and voted for the future I prefer.

Inam Ali a resident of Baghdad. She told her story to Mohammed Furat, an editor in Iraq with The Institute for War & Peace Reporting, a nonprofit organization that trains journalists in areas of conflict. Readers may write to the author at the Institute for War & Peace Reporting, 48 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8LT, U.K.; Web site: www.iwpr.net.

A macabre publicity stunt

By MAXWELL TAYLOR KENNEDY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

I am the son of Robert F. Kennedy, who was murdered in Los Angeles more than 40 years ago. As the child of a crime victim, I am guaranteed by the state Constitution that my family and I will be treated with respect and dignity.

Yet I was horrified to learn last week that the Los Angeles Police Department had included the shirt, tie and jacket my father was wearing when he was assassinated in an exhibition at the California Homicide Investigators Association conference in Las Vegas. The display—billed as never-before-seen artifacts from the vaults of the LAPD and the L.A. County district attorney's office—also includes crime-scene evidence from the Black Dahlia murder, the death of Marilyn Monroe, the O.J. Simpson case and the Manson murders.

As a former assistant district attorney, I understand that the proper storage of property and legal evidence is a critical part of the judicial process. The D.A.'s office and the police are required to follow legislative and court-ordered guidelines, because the correct handling of crime victims' property minimizes the risk of evidence contamination and protects it for return to owners.

I requested the return of my father's items nearly a decade ago. My request was refused by the district attorney's office. The D.A. promised, though, to keep the personal items with care and out of public view. Since then, courageous crime victims in California have forced a change in the state Constitution, requiring law enforcement officials to return victims' property when it is no longer needed as evidence.

This week, despite that constitutional requirement, the chief of police and the district attorney took my father's blood-soaked clothing and displayed it, as part of a macabre publicity stunt. It is almost incomprehensible to imagine what circumstances would have led to a decision to transport these items across state lines to be gawked at by gamblers and tourists. It is demeaning to my family, but just as important, it is demeaning to the trust that citizens place in their law enforcement officers.

When I called to express my surprise and disappointment, the chief maintained to me that hanging my dad's bloody shirt from a mannequin in a casino was part of an effort to train detectives. Perhaps he believes that, but to me it seems like a cheap bid for attention. It is almost like a traffic cop inviting motorists to slow down and take a good look as they go past a tragedy.

The chief agreed to remove my father's belongings from the exhibit. I'm pleased he did so. But he should also remember that such items are personal property, entrusted to the state's care, not to be exploited. He relies on crime victims to prosecute virtually every criminal. He cannot long succeed if he continues to put victims' pain on display for publicity.

Maxwell Taylor Kennedy, an author, is a resident of Los Angeles. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Rain	▲84	▼80
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲84	▼80

Around The Globe

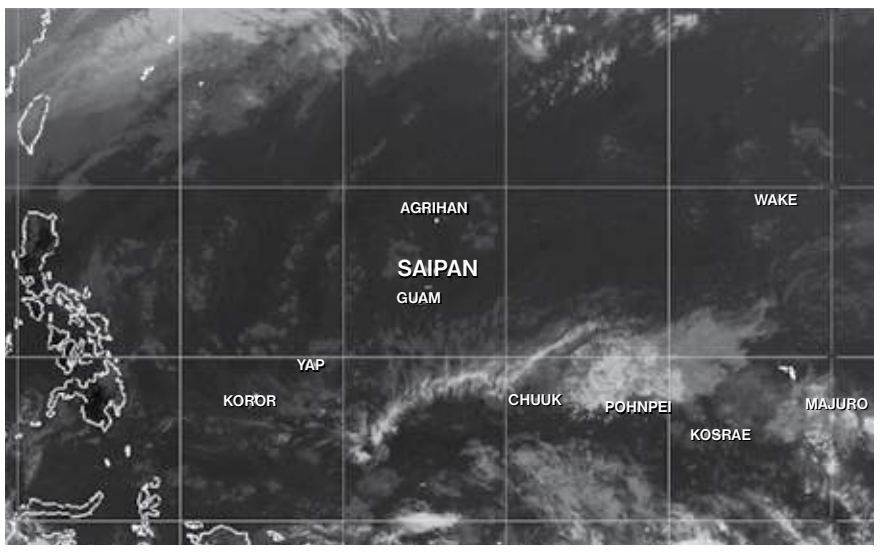
Auckland	Rain	▲84	▼80
Beijing	Cloudy	▲48	▼32
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲79	▼68
Honolulu	Showers	▲76	▼69
London	Showers	▲58	▼45
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82	▼54
Manila	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲80	▼60
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼63
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼52
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲66	▼38
Paris	Showers	▲58	▼49
Pusan	Showers	▲55	▼35
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲62	▼47
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼45
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲64	▼48
Seoul	Rain/Snow	▲48	▼32
Tokyo	Sunny	▲65	▼51
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼51

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:11 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
9:39 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:45 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
11:24 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough runs southeastward from 15N130E through between Koror and Yap at 8N136E to end at 3N145E. Scattered showers are seen near the northern portion of the trough within 100 miles of a line from 11N130E to 14N141E. Aided by favorable upper winds. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found along the remainder of the trough over Yap or within 135 miles of a line from 10N137E to 2N147E. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from south of the Philippines through 2N130E to an equatorial buffer at 1N154E. Another surface trough runs northward from the equatorial buffer to near Chuuk at 9N151E. Low-level convergence in the vicinity of the trough and buffer is creating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae or south of a line from 8N150E to 8N158E to 4N166E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Tarawa and Butaritari atolls between the equator and 3N from 172E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:22 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:21 AM	6:28 PM
Monday	6:20 AM	6:28 PM
Tuesday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Wednesday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:53 AM	10:10 PM
Sunday	9:43 AM	11:07 PM
Monday	10:36 AM	
Tuesday	11:35 AM	12:06 AM
Wednesday	12:36 PM	1:03 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 16, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

DL638	8:00am	10:55am	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:50am	8:40am	Daily
DL638/288	8:00am	1:40pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL297	4:35pm	7:30pm	Daily
DL289	4:50pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/933	3:15pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
OZ606/703	3:20pm	10:55pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

DL641	9:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
DL298	10:15am	2:45pm	Daily
DL287/641	5:50pm	1:35am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL288	9:00pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

Sunday	9am	Sunday school
	10am	Regular worship
	6pm	worship
Wednesday		
	7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries

Sunday	5:30am-6:30am	
Morning prayer		
	7am-9am	English service
	7am-9am	Sunday school
	10am-12noon	English service,
Koblerville		
Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service

Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 20, 2000

JEPA vows to organize business mission to NMI

In a move to help the CNMI recover from the economic slump, the head of the Japan Entrepreneurs and Presidents Association has pledged to organize an investment mission to the CNMI to look into business opportunities on the island. According to Tsuneo Shimoji, the Northern Marianas has a huge potential of attracting businessmen who are planning to set up a retirement haven for Japanese. Mr. Shimoji cited Hawaii as an example where a retirement village for Japanese has been established. But he said the CNMI must offer incentives in order to lure new investors.

CUC revamp hailed

Two members of the Senate welcomed the change in the leadership of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Board, saying it bodes well on the efforts to improve ties between the two agencies which have worsened in recent months due to differences of opinion on the Saipan power project. Under the leadership of new Board Chair Jesus T. Guerrero, they are hoping that the stalled 80-megawatt plant will push through as initially proposed despite earlier decision by CUC to scale down the project. "Whoever chairs it, I think the direction now is to try and work together with the Legislature. That's what we have wanted from the very start," said Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes.

March 20, 2001

Double whammy for local leaders

Senate Floor Leader Pete Reyes said Commonwealth leaders should concentrate at alleviating CNMI's current economic conditions, instead of installing measures that restrict potential growth of the business sector. Members of the business community met with Mr. Reyes yesterday to air their sentiments on the apparent disregard by the Senate of proposals to repeal the three-year limit stay imposed on nonresident workers. With the introduction of a new federal takeover bill in the US Senate, business leaders are anxious that the CNMI government would refuse to act on the complete elimination of the three-year limit law.

Chamber to picket Senate to press repeal of 3-year limit

Lawmakers' inaction on the repeal of the three-year limit law yesterday forced the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to picket the legislative building. At least 25 businessmen, led by Chamber President Anthony Pellegrino, went up to Capitol Hill and discussed with Senate Floor Leader Pete Reyes their sentiment on the Senate's seeming procrastination on House Bill 12-137. HB 12-137 seeks to repeal Public Law 11-69 or the three-year limit law in its entirety. "The three-year limit law was passed two years ago just to appease Washington, DC. The situation has changed since then. What I can't understand is why our senators are making a political football out of it. What is there to think about?" the chamber president noted.

March 20, 2002

Governor Manglona, temporarily

EditorSenate President Paul A. Manglona became governor for the day yesterday, after the Commonwealth's two highest officials left the CNMI for separate official businesses off island. Gov. Juan N. Babauta left yesterday morning for Guam on official business, which the administration refused to specify, while Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente left the Commonwealth Monday afternoon for Palau to attend the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pacific Islands Development Bank. Babauta was expected to return yesterday evening, while Benavente is not expected back until today or Thursday. In the meantime, Manglona was designated as the acting Governor the whole day yesterday.

Legislature begins to move on wage hike

Both chambers of the CNMI Legislature will be coming out with a joint letter this week directing Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig and Rep. Andrew S. Salas to work together and come up with a legislation addressing the minimum wage issue. Senate President Paul A. Manglona said he has already met with House of Representatives Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider and they have agreed to set Atalig and Salas to work on the recommendation of the Special Industry Committee to increase the minimum wage by 22 cents. Salas is chairman of the House Committee on Commerce, while Atalig is chairman of the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs.

Business

China calls on Washington to cool down yuan pressure

BEIJING (AP)—China stepped up resistance Friday to U.S. pressure over currency, calling on Washington to cool its "politicization and emotionalization" of the issue and warning a further rise in its yuan could drive exporters out of business.

Beijing is trying to head off pressure from U.S. lawmakers for President Barack Obama to have China declared a currency manipulator in a Treasury Department report due out next month, which could set the stage for possible trade sanctions.

"A lot of problems can be properly solved so long as we can avoid politicization and emotionalization," a Commerce Ministry official, He Ning, told reporters. "It should not be one side pressing the other side."

He warned that dialogue with Washington over the issue might be harmed by "external disturbances" such as this week's letter from 130 American lawmakers calling on Obama to take action against Beijing.

Premier Wen Jiabao on Sunday rejected Washington's contention that the yuan is undervalued and other officials have dismissed complaints that exchange-rate controls are the cause of China's multibillion-dollar trade surplus.

Washington and other trading partners say China's controls give its exporters an unfair price advantage. Wen promised currency reforms but said the yuan will be kept at a "stable and balanced" level.

A senior trade official added a human dimension to Beijing's appeal in comments published Friday, warning that a rise in the yuan could wipe out profits for exporters, possibly leading to job losses.

Vice Commerce Minister Zhong Shan said the profit margin on many Chinese exports was less than 2 percent and a rise in China's yuan after 2005 forced many companies to close, The Wall Street Journal reported. It said Zhong made the comments in an interview Thursday ahead of a visit to the United States.

Zhong compared the precarious situation of Chinese exporters to water that is about to boil, the Journal said.

"Water doesn't boil if it is heated to 99 degree Celsius (210 degrees F). But it will boil if it is heated by one more degree," he said. Likewise, "a further rise in the yuan by a very small magnitude might cause fundamental changes" to exporters in China.

Feds: Brakes weren't applied on crashed NY Toyota Prius

HARRISON, N.Y. (AP)—Computer data from a Toyota Prius that crashed in suburban New York City show that at the time of the accident the throttle was open and the driver was not applying the brakes, U.S. safety officials said Thursday.

The disclosure prompted an angry response from the police captain investigating the cause of the accident. He said his probe was not over and driver error had not been established.

"For any agency to release data and to draw conclusions without consulting with the law enforcement agency that brought this to light could be self-serving," said Capt. Anthony Marraccini of the Harrison, N.Y., force.

A housekeeper driving the car on March 9 told police that it sped up on its own down a driveway, despite her braking, and crashed into a stone wall across the street. She was not seriously hurt.

The accident set off an intense investigation because Toyota has recalled more than 8 million cars since last fall over gas pedals that could become stuck or be held down by floor mats.

Technicians from Toyota and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the police department's own consultants examined the wrecked 2005 Prius outside police headquarters in Harrison on Wednesday. Marraccini said NHTSA also interviewed the driver.

On Thursday, NHTSA said information from the car's computer systems indicated there was no application of the brakes and the throttle was fully open. It did not elaborate.

The Prius is equipped with an event data recorder, or "black box" designed to record the state of the car at the moment of the impact.

Marraccini cautioned that even if NHTSA's disclosure is accurate, "This is a snapshot. This is not the total investigation."

He said the Harrison police have not closed their investigation or examined all data that was retrieved.

Earlier, the captain also criticized Toyota for announcing the evidence was "conclusive" and for providing him with data from the recorder but not the software he needed to read it.

"You can't open it, you can't read it, you can't do anything with it," Marraccini said.

Toyota spokesman Wade Hoyt said later that the company was arranging for the police to get temporary access to the needed software "at a reduced cost." He said it typically costs about $7,000 but is also available on a temporary basis for $50.

Nation

Obama scuttles Asia trip to push health care bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama scuttled an Asian trip in favor of last-minute lobbying at the White House on his top domestic priority, a sweeping $940 billion U.S. health care reform plan that is now headed for a climatic weekend vote.

Obama played host to a procession of Democrats still wavering over the health care program, which would affect nearly every American and remake one-sixth of the U.S. economy. For the first time, Americans would be required to have health insurance.

Democrats were boosted by a nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office report that said health care reform would trim federal deficits by an estimated $138 billion over the next decade.

The stakes are huge for Obama, who is putting much of his credibility on the line to gain passage of legislation. One Republican has said it could prove to be the president's Waterloo if the drive collapses.

"It will make history and we will make progress by passing this legislation," predicted the Democratic leader of the House of Representatives, Speaker Nancy Pelosi as Democrats unveiled final alterations to a bill—16 tumultuous months in the making—meant to expand health care to 32 million uninsured Americans, bar the insurance industry from denying coverage on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions.

Democrats set a Sunday showdown in the House, and while Pelosi and others expressed confidence about the outcome, Obama's decision to put off a scheduled Asian trip until June was a confession that the votes were not yet secured.

AP

Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., left, talks with Rep. Jose Serrano, D-NY, before members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus announce their support for the health care reform bill on Thursday, March 18, 2010 on Capitol Hill in Washington.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated the total 10-year cost of expanding coverage at $940 billion. The analysts said the legislation would reduce the federal deficit by $138 billion over its first 10 years, and continue to drive down the red ink thereafter. Democratic leaders said the deficit would be cut $1.2 trillion in the second decade—and Obama called it the biggest reduction since the 1990s, when President Bill Clinton put the federal budget on a path to surplus.

Beginning in 2014, most Americans would be required to purchase insurance, and face penalties if they refused. Millions of families with incomes up to $88,000 a year would receive government help to defray their costs. Large businesses would face fines if they did not offer good-quality coverage to their workers.

Obama backs senators' immigration overhaul outline

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama, facing criticism from advocates of immigration reform, pledged Thursday "to do everything in my power" to get immigration legislation moving in Congress this year.

Obama said work on an immigration bill should move forward based on an outline released Thursday by Sens. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.

"A critical next step will be to translate their framework into a legislative proposal, and for Congress to act at the earliest possible opportunity," Obama said.

The outline calls for illegal immigrants to admit they broke the law, pay a fine and back taxes, and perform community service if they want to get on a pathway to legal status. They would also be required to pass background checks and be proficient in English.

"I congratulate Sens. Schumer and Graham for their leadership, and pledge to do everything in my power to forge a bipartisan consensus this year on this important issue so we can continue to move forward on comprehensive immigration reform," Obama said.

Obama's statement and the senators' outline were timed for release before a march and rally Sunday that is expected to draw tens of thousands of people to Washington to press the administration and Congress for immigration reform.

Immigrants and their supporters have grown frustrated as the Obama administration has continued to detain and deport immigrants while immigration reform remains dormant. Obama had promised to make it a top priority in his first year in office.

Hoping to temper the percolating discontent, Obama held two separate meetings last week with grassroots immigration leaders as well as Schumer and Graham. The president assured the leaders at the meeting that he remains committed to reform.

Obama met Thursday at the White House with Reps. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., and Solomon Ortiz, D-Texas, the sponsors of a House immigration bill. Gutierrez said later he agreed to vote for Obama's signature domestic bill, health care reform, only if an immigration bill advanced quickly and with a presidential imprimatur. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus also endorsed the health care bill.

"I'm committed to voting for this health care bill on that basis," Gutierrez said. "I want the president to be in lockstep with us, which I believe he was during the campaign."

White House spokesman Reid Cherlin said there was no quid pro quo involved in the White House's dealings with Gutierrez.

Kids who helped deliver baby describe ordeal

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—When their mom went into labor with no one else around, a 9-year-old California boy and his 11-year-old sister quickly responded like pros and helped care for their newborn brother.

They also came away with a better story than most older siblings.

"My mom started screaming and then she started bleeding all over her body and then the baby came so I called 9-1-1 for an ambulance," Jabari said Thursday evening outside the family's apartment. "Then my sister told my mom to lie down."

Faith described her conversation with the 911 dispatcher.

"The operator started talking to me and telling me to take a piece of yarn or string and tie it around the umbilical cord and I did," she said. "Shortly after that the paramedics knocked on the door."

Their father, Geoffrey Sanders, said his wife, Alana Sanders, was not available for comment Thursday because she and the baby were resting.

The 36-year-old Northern California woman unexpectedly went into labor at her home in Fremont and was forced to turn to her kids after giving birth while standing in her bathroom.

Geoffrey Sanders, 35, said Thursday he had left for work around 1:30 a.m. and was not around when the baby came on March 9.

He said Faith and Jabari are "much brighter than their age."

"I'm a proud father," he said. "It's kind of a pat on the back that we are doing something right."

In a previous interview, Alana Sanders said her kids stayed composed throughout the ordeal.

"They didn't freak out. They didn't fight with each other," she told the Oakland Tribune.

A 911 recording released Wednesday attests to the children's poise, as they relayed messages between their mother and a dispatcher.

After the baby was born, the dispatcher can be heard telling Faith to wipe the baby with a clean towel and tie, not cut, the umbilical cord with a string or shoelace about six inches from the baby's body.

"You did a great job," the dispatcher says, as paramedics arrive.

Alana Sanders and the newborn, Joseph, were taken to Saint Rose Hospital in Hayward. The boy, who weighed 9 pounds and 4 ounces, was healthy, Geoffrey Sanders said.

Leprechaun holdup suspect linked to Santa robbery

GALLATIN, Tenn. (AP)—The man who staged a St. Patrick's Day bank robbery in a leprechaun costume and died during a police shootout also held up a bank three days before Christmas in a Santa suit, police said Thursday.

Investigators in the Nashville suburb of Gallatin said information from the FBI linked David Christopher Cotton, 20, of Brentwood to the December robbery.

FBI Supervisor Special Agent Scott Augenbaum told The Associated Press that investigators found a Santa suit at Cotton's home, and that the suspect made similar comments during both robberies.

The man police identified as the getaway driver, 20-year-old Western Kentucky University student Jonathan Ryan Skinner, also was killed. Police said they think Cotton shot himself to death as officers surrounded the two in a field after a car and foot chase.

Patrol car video of the chase released Thursday shows one of the suspects leaning out of the passenger window of the getaway car and firing several shots at police on the street of a subdivision.

At least one round strikes the front of the car, kicking up a shower of metal and glass. Police said the shots disabled the vehicle, and the video shows a string of other police cars giving chase.

Police said the two ditched their vehicle and ran into a field near a subdivision where they died.

A friend of Cotton's family, Rose Horton, said his parents are grieving and requested privacy. The recording on the answering machine for Albert and Annette Cotton referred calls to Horton. "They loved their son as much as any parents love their children," she said. "They are thankful that no bystanders were hurt and they give their condolences to the family of the other man."

ACROSS THE NATION

Gunman kills KC 7-Eleven clerk working final shift

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Gurpreet Singh was working his final shift as a 7-Eleven clerk, before moving on next week to full-time job at a hospital, when he was gunned down during a robbery. Police say they can't explain why Singh, 35, was shot in the abdomen early Wednesday even after complying with the gunman's instructions to hand over his register's cash in a bag. "He didn't put up a struggle at all," said homicide Detective Jeff Cowdrey. "He did what he was supposed to do and got shot for it."

Authorities: Body on Wash. beach is missing boy

SEATTLE (AP)—A child's body found Thursday on an island beach in Puget Sound is that of an 8-year-old boy who vanished last weekend with his mother, a Pierce County sheriff's spokesman said. Positive identification was based on Azriel Carver's clothing, mohawk haircut and "looking at pictures of him," spokesman Ed Troyer said. The Pierce County medical examiner's office plans an autopsy Friday to determine cause of death.

Bail set at $5M for WA man accused in wife's death

SEATTLE (AP)—Bail has been set at $5 million for a 42-year-old man accused of fatally shooting his wife during a counseling session at a church in Washington state. Charles Parsons, of Lakewood, did not appear Thursday for his bail hearing in King County District Court. He is being held for investigation of homicide in the death Wednesday of his wife, 38-year-old Carol Parsons. Court documents say the two were attending a counseling session at Calvary Lutheran Church in Federal Way when Parsons pulled out a pistol and shot his wife three times. The documents say Parsons then called police, placed the gun on the hood of his truck before officers arrived.

Arizona sheriff launches immigration sweep

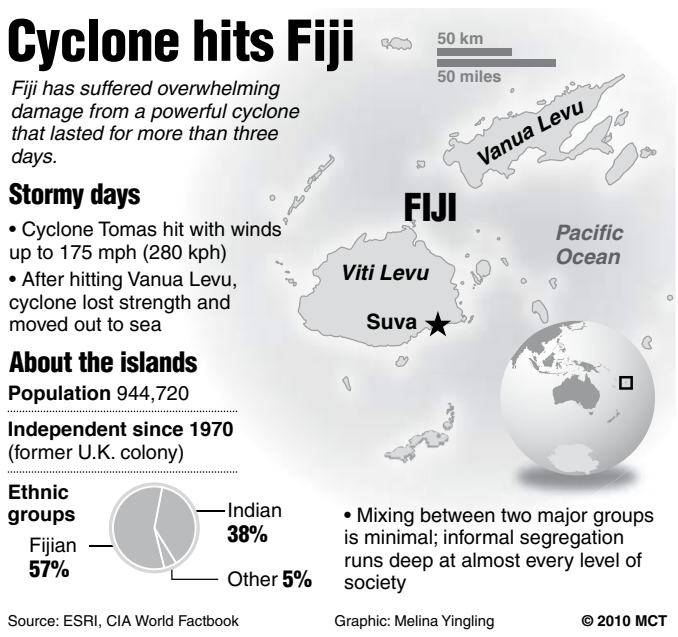
PHOENIX (AP)—The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office in Arizona has launched a two-day, countywide crime and immigration sweep that authorities say will focus on drop houses, drug violators and human smuggling vehicles. Four hundred deputies and volunteer posse members are taking part in the patrols. The sweep, which began Thursday, is Sheriff Joe Arpaio's 14th since early 2008. During the sweeps, deputies flood an area of a city—in some cases heavily Latino areas—to seek out traffic violators and arrest other alleged lawbreakers.

Asia

Second death in Fiji storm

SUVA, Fiji (AP)—Fijians cleaning up after a devastating cyclone discovered the body of a second victim on Friday, as military forces from three nations worked to find out the extent of damage to outlying islands and deliver aid. Cyclone Tomas battered the north and east of the multi-island nation for several days starting last Friday, collapsing some homes and ripping the roofs off others, and cutting power and water supplies to some remote regions.

With communications severed with some hard-hit regions, officials are still trying to determine the full extent of destruction though Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama described the damage as overwhelming. The Disaster Management Office said Friday the second victim was a man who apparently drowned as has tried to cross a swollen river near the town of Labasa. The first victim was a woman swept out to sea last Friday by a tidal surge.


Cyclone hits Fiji
Fiji has suffered overwhelming damage from a powerful cyclone that lasted for more than three days.
Stormy days
• Cyclone Tomas hit with winds up to 175 mph (280 kph)
• After hitting Vanua Levu, cyclone lost strength and moved out to sea
About the islands
Population 944,720
Independent since 1970 (former U.K. colony)
Ethnic groups
Fijian 57%
Indian 38%
Other 5%
• Mixing between two major groups is minimal; informal segregation runs deep at almost every level of society
50 km
50 miles
Vanua Levu
FIJI
Viti Levu
Suva
Pacific Ocean
Source: ESRI, CIA World Factbook
Graphic: Melina Yingling
© 2010 MCT

The South Pacific island nation has sent naval patrol boats laden with supplies to the northern islands that bore the full brunt of the storm, while Australian and New Zealand air force planes airlifted emergency supplies and continued surveillance flights of the area.

A nationwide curfew was lifted on Wednesday, but a state of emergency will remain in effect for 30 days in the country's northern and eastern divisions, where aid agencies say up to 130,000 people were affected by the storm.

Thai PM says he's open to talks with protesters

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's prime minister said Thursday the government was ready to hold talks with protesters, who want him to call new elections, but only if they stop throwing blood, blocking government offices and remain peaceful.

For the past week, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva has been sleeping at an army base outside Bangkok to avoid mass demonstrations by anti-government protesters. Their rallies have featured shock tactics like splattering jugs of their own blood at his private home Wednesday and at the government headquarters a day earlier.

Tens of thousands of demonstrators remained encamped in the historic heart of the Thai capital Thursday, vowing to wage a "class war" until Abhisit dissolves Parliament and calls fresh elections—a demand he has repeatedly rejected.

Some of the protest's leaders have increasingly portrayed the demonstrations as a struggle between Thailand's impoverished, mainly rural masses and a Bangkok-based elite impervious to their plight. The group largely consists of supporters of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted by a 2006 military coup for alleged corruption, and pro-democracy activists who opposed the army takeover.

Pakistan arrests halt UN contacts with Taliban

KABUL (AP)—Pakistan's recent arrests of top Taliban leaders have halted the United Nation's secret talks with the insurgency, the U.N.'s former envoy to Afghanistan said.

Kai Eide, a Norwegian diplomat who just stepped down from the U.N. post in the Afghan capital of Kabul, told the BBC that discussions with senior Taliban members began a year ago and included face-to-face conversations in Dubai and elsewhere. It was the first time that Eide publicly confirmed that his contacts with senior Taliban members had begun a year ago.

"The first contact was probably last spring, then of course you moved into the (Afghan presidential) election process where there was a lull in activity," Eide told the BBC in a report issued on Friday. "Then, communication picked up when the election process was over, and it continued to pick up until a certain moment a few weeks ago."

Pakistan has denied that it moved against the Taliban to stop or exert control of any talks that could determine the future of neighboring Afghanistan.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China probes vaccines after child deaths reported

BEIJING (AP)—China's Health Ministry is investigating the safety of inoculations in a northern province after a report that defective vaccines possibly killed four children and seriously sickened dozens. The ministry urged health authorities in Shanxi province to promptly report any abnormal reactions triggered by vaccines, saying "the ministry attaches great importance to this issue and will carry out an investigation immediately," according to a statement posted on its Web site late Wednesday. The China Economic Times newspaper reported Wednesday that vaccines for encephalitis, hepatitis B, rabies and other diseases administered by government-run clinics were possibly linked to the deaths of four children in 2008 and the sickening of at least 74 others in the province.

Japanese fish dealers welcome tuna ban rejection

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese fish dealers on Friday welcomed the rejection of a proposed trade ban on Atlantic bluefin tuna—a prized ingredient of sushi—while urging that existing quotas be more strictly enforced to protect the species from overfishing. Thursday's vote at a U.N. meeting in Doha, Qatar, rejecting the ban was front-page news in all major Japanese newspapers Friday morning. Japan consumes about 80 percent of the world's Atlantic bluefin tuna, and the possibility of a ban had consumers and fish wholesalers worried that prices for the pink and red meat of the fish—called "honmaguro" here—would soar or that it might even vanish from some menus.

World

US, Russia clash over startup of Iran nuke plant

MOSCOW (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and her Russian counterpart clashed openly Thursday over the planned launch this summer of Iran's first, Russian-built nuclear power plant, highlighting a split in views over how to steer Iran away from nuclear weapons.

Clinton did not criticize the long-delayed project directly but said the Obama administration is opposed to the timing of the nuclear plant's startup. Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin announced the summer startup plans on Thursday, shortly after Clinton arrived for a two-day visit.

The nuclear plant is an example of Russian-Iranian economic ties and technical cooperation, on terms that have long made the United States uncomfortable. It was a background issue during a difficult period in U.S.-Russian relations last year and in the ongoing U.S.-led effort to bring new United Nations economic penalties against Iran over suspicions that part of its nuclear program is aimed at building a bomb.

Putin's announcement adds another complication to the already long list of issues on which Clinton and her Russian hosts don't agree. Clinton is seeing Putin on Friday.

At a news conference with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov after talks on a wide range of issues, Clinton told reporters that Iran, while entitled to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, must reassure the world that it is not trying to build a nuclear weapon.

"In the absence of those reassurances, we think it would be premature to go forward with any project at this time, because we want to send an unequivocal message to the Iranians," she said.

Lavrov forcefully asserted that, whatever the U.S. concerns, his country will finish its work on the Bushehr nuclear power plant shortly.

AP

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, left, and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov smile as they leave a news conference after the talks in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, March 18, 2010.

Export ban on Atlantic bluefin tuna rejected

DOHA, Qatar (AP)—Fishing nations won a victory over environmentalists Thursday when a U.S.-backed proposal to ban export of the Atlantic bluefin tuna was overwhelmingly rejected at a U.N. wildlife meeting.

Japan won over scores of poorer nations with a campaign that played on fears that a ban would devastate their economies. Tokyo also raised doubts that such a radical move was scientifically sound.

In another blow to conservationists, a proposal at the meeting to ban the international sale of polar bear skins failed to pass.

With stocks of Atlantic bluefin tuna down 75 percent due to the rapacious appetites of Japanese sushi lovers, the defeat of the proposal was a stunning setback for the Americans, Europeans and their conservationist allies who had hoped the 175-nation Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, or CITES, would protect the fish.

"Let's take science and throw it out the door," Susan Lieberman, director of international policy with the Pew Environment Group in Washington, said sarcastically.

WORLD BRIEFS

Sudan and Darfur rebel group sign cease-fire

DOHA, Qatar (AP)—Sudan's government and a collection of Darfur rebel groups signed a cease-fire Thursday—the second such deal in less than a month with a key rebel faction—opening the way for political negotiations ahead of a full peace agreement. The Sudanese government now has truces with two major rebel blocs, leaving mainly the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Paris-based Abdelwahid Elnur on the outside—though the history of the conflict has been marked by failed peace agreements. Arduous negotiations on power and resource sharing, the main demand of the rebels, still lie ahead. Thursday's truce was with the newly formed Liberation and Justice Movement, an umbrella organization of several smaller rebel groups, including some who broke away from the SLM.

Netanyahu calls Clinton to defuse tensions

MOSCOW (AP)—Hoping to diffuse a fight between friends, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton agreed Thursday to meet next week in Washington to confront face to face an embarrassing dispute over Israeli land claims. The Obama administration's special envoy for Mideast peace, George Mitchell, prepared to return to the region for talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders. Netanyahu called Clinton on Thursday. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley declined to provide details of the conversation, which he described as the Israeli prime minister's response to Clinton's call last week in which she harshly criticized Israel's announcement of additional Jewish settlement housing in east Jerusalem.

Venezuela asks for details of charges in ETA case

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela has asked authorities in Spain to detail their accusations against an alleged ETA operative accused of helping the Basque separatist group arrange explosives training with Colombian rebels in Venezuela. Venezuela asked Interpol in Madrid for details of the indictment naming Arturo Cubillas Fontan, who is among a group of ETA suspects wanted by Spanish authorities, Venezuelan Justice Minister Tareck El Aissami said Thursday. El Aissami's suggestion that Venezuela is willing to investigate the accusations sharply contrasts with previous statements by Chavez, who railed against Spanish authorities for saying they would demand an explanation from his government about the allegations.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, March 20, 2010

AP corrects caption to reflect soldiers' memory

By ADAM GELLER
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—For 68 years, John E. Love has been haunted by the memory of carrying fallen comrades to a mass grave hollowed out of a Filipino rice field. Now, at last, a bit of history is being rewritten because of those memories.

After six months of research, The Associated Press this week is correcting the caption on one of the most famous photos in its library, 65 years after the image first moved on the newswire. The image shows defeated Allied soldiers after their surrender to Japanese forces on the Philippines' Bataan Peninsula in April 1942.

Over the years, the photo—which shows a procession of men walking down a dirt road, bearing bodies in blankets hung from bamboo poles—has become perhaps the most widely published image of what came to be known as the Bataan Death March.

But for many of those years, Love, a native of Albuquerque, New Mexico, who fought to defend Bataan as a 19-year-old Army corporal, saw captions paired with the photo that he believed did a disservice to the truth.

Last August, Love picked up the Albuquerque Journal and saw the photo again, together with a front-page story about Bataan survivors. He called the newspaper and told an editor the caption was wrong. It described the scene as part of the infamous Death March, a forced six-day march by Japanese captors of 12,000 Americans and more than 66,000 Filipino prisoners across the peninsula. Thousands died in the march; some were killed by captors impatient with their progess, other succumbed to a lack of food, water and medical treatment.

"That picture is not of the Death March," says Love, now 87. "The Japanese would not have tolerated a bunch of slow marching guys carrying their own dead. They wouldn't have tolerated it just one New York minute."

A Journal reporter, Charles D. Brunt, found other local Bataan survivors who agreed, wrote a story about the conflicting information and contacted AP, the source of both the photo and the caption. That launched the cooperative's own investigation of the photo, originally supplied to news services by the U.S. military after it was confiscated from defeated Japanese forces.

AP

A photo released by the U.S. military in 1945, after it was captured from the Japanese, shows allied prisoners of war in the Philippines carrying their comrades in slings. At the time of its release, this photo was identified as dead and wounded being carried by fellow prisoners during the Bataan Death March in April 1942. Subsequent information from military archivists, the National Archives and Records Administration, and surviving prisoners strongly suggests that this photo may actually depict a burial detail at Camp O'Donnell, the Japanese POW camp where allied prisoners were held after the Bataan Death March.

Deep in the AP library of millions of photos, the caption filed with a negative in 1945 identified the image as showing U.S. and Filipino forces carrying war casualties as they neared the end of the death march and approached Camp O'Donnell, where prisoners of war were held.

AP archivists contacted the Pentagon. Eventually, that led to the original photograph, on file in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. The catalog recorded it as a photo of American prisoners using improvised litters to carry comrades. But a note filed along with the image, date unknown, said that, according to a retired U.S. Army colonel, the photo was not of the death march, but of the burial detail in the weeks that followed.

That's exactly the way Love had long recalled it.

"We rounded up bamboo poles ... and we confiscated what blankets we could from the incoming prisoners. We told them we had to have them. The guys were dying faster than we could dig graves or carry them," Love said. "We carried them 1,000 yards (meters) and we would just unload the blankets there and the guys would fall out into the graves. I did that every day until the late hours of the evening for six weeks."

After discussing the evidence, AP decided to correct the caption. It now reads, in part, "At the time of its release, this photo was identified as dead and wounded being carried by fellow prisoners during the Bataan Death March in April 1942 ... Subsequent information from military archivists, the National Archives and Records Administration, and surviving prisoners, strongly suggests that this photo may actually depict a burial detail at Camp O'Donnell."

It is rare for the news service to correct the information filed with a historical photo, said Valerie Komor, director of the AP Corporate Archives. There are many images in storage, and any individual photograph is likely to be re-examined only if someone calls it into question. But that does not mean the first draft of history cannot be rewritten.

"I'm glad we came to a resolution for these veterans who understandably take it very seriously, as well they should," said Chuck Zoeller, a longtime director of the AP Photo Library who now works on the corporate communications staff. "I'm glad there's some satisfaction for them in it."

The new caption does not change history. It merely revises a footnote, 68 long years after the fact.

But on Wednesday, when Love recalled his experience at Bataan and his insistence that it be recorded correctly, his voice broke and his eyes welled with tears.

"I did it for the guys that I buried," he said. "We owed it to them."

Tayag banks on allied groups for Bandila campaign

With no money to fund an expensive campaign, Bishop Nilo Tayag of the partylist group Bandila is pushing for an intensive campaign that will bank on the volunteerism of its allied groups.

"Since we are no match to the rich partylist candidates, we shall utilize the active volunteerism of the members of our allied organization like the Guardians - Kilusang Pilipinismo, The Philippine Independent Catholic Church, and the Federation of Agrarian and Industrial Toiling Hands, which could easily garner a million votes for Bandila.

Tayag said that the Union of the Masses for Democracy and Justice led by its chairman Ver Eustaquio has pledged its 500,000 members and supporters to work for the election of Bandila nominees to the Philippine Congress. He said the UMDJ also espouses the ideology of Filipinism.

Tayag

"We shall go for an intensive but inexpensive campaign first of all simply because we really cannot afford it. However, the distinct advantage of Bandila nominees is that they have been engaged in building mass organizations since their teens," said Tayag.

"Siksik Solido, Walang Luksong Palaka" will be the working slogan of Bandila, said Tayag, which means concentrating on the mass base support first instead of wasting resources in sparsely populated or flung areas.

Tayag said that Bandila would rather choose aggrupations or workers groups like the OFWs and other migrant workers who are allowed to vote by the Philippine government. Even Filipino-Americans in continental US could support Bandila and its advocacies, he said

"The irony of ironies is that the partylists that genuinely works for the marginalized sectors are disadvantaged in their campaigns. They just make up for this shortcoming through diligence and dedication in their campaigns," he added.

"Of course, pure volunteerism is not enough, resources are needed to keep the campaign going," he said. "What we do is exchange our support to candidates of our choice for their campaign paraphernalia or sample ballots."

"It will be a difficult struggle but we are very hopeful that we can elect a sizable number of congressmen who are truly the representatives of the disenfranchised masses of our people," Tayag added. ***(PR)***

SC asked anew to block Arroyo congressional bid

By LIRA DALANGIN-FERNANDEZ
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—A week before President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo can officially begin campaigning in her home province in Pampanga, a motion has been filed anew in the Supreme Court to block her congressional bid.

Akbayan partylist Representative Risa Hontiveros on Friday filed a motion asking the high tribunal to reverse its ruling dismissing her petition to disqualify Arroyo.

In her petition, Hontiveros, a senatorial candidate of the Liberal Party said, "The high court should not ignore the gross injustice that GMA's [Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's] candidacy would inflict upon our democracy."

Comparing it to the decision of the high tribunal that allowed the President to appoint a Chief Justice despite the ban, Hontiveros warned that allowing Arroyo to run for a congressional seat could lead to "abuse of power and revival of dictatorship."

"The twin ruling on midnight appointment and GMA's candidacy would weaken the checks and balances system in our constitution," she said.

Hontiveros reiterated that the Constitution barred Arroyo from running in lower posts.

"It would be an uneven fight, with GMA capable of mobilizing the entire powers of the presidency to win the congressional seat. It is precisely this kind of abuse that the framers of the Constitution contemplated when they instituted the ban on re-election for an incumbent president," she said.

On February 23, the high court dismissed the petition filed by Hontiveros seeking to disqualify Arroyo from running for congressman.

She said the Commission on Elections (Comelec) erred in its reading of Section 4, Article VII of the 1987 Constitution when it gave Arroyo the go-signal to run. She said the provision made two prohibitions—an absolute ban on any re-election for an incumbent President, and a prohibition on re-election for the presidency against an individual who succeeded as President and who have served as such for more than four years.

No rift between President, Verzosa—PNP spokesman

Someone driving wedge between the two, he says

By ABIGAIL KWOK
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—There is no rift between President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Philippine National Police Director General Jesus Verzosa amid reports that surfaced after Arroyo skipped the PNP Academy graduation rites in Cavite province on Thursday, a spokesman for the PNP said Friday.

At the same time, Chief Superintendent Leonardo Espina said that someone was "maliciously trying to drive [a] wedge" between the President and Verzosa, as reports surfaced that Arroyo was not happy with Verzosa's statement that he would not support Armed Forces Chief Delfin Bangit should he attempt to keep Arroyo in office even after the elections.

Verzosa gave the statement in an interview with editors and reporters of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer.*

"It is highly unfair to accuse the President of snubbing the PNPA rites," Espina said, reading a prepared statement to reporters on Friday.

In fact, Espina said Verzosa and Arroyo spoke on the phone days before the event to discuss "administrative matters."

Espina also belied the Inquirer report quoting an anonymous police official saying Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno only learned he was to stand in for the President a day before the graduation rites.

AP

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo addresses delegates to the Special Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development of the Non-Aligned Movement at the opening of the two-day conference Wednesday March 17, 2010 in Manila, Philippines. The meeting, attended by 124 member countries and observers, aims to promote inter-religious dialogues as an alternative way to resolve conflicts and promote economic development.

"Our good Secretary of the Interior and Local Government was set to represent the President even weeks before the scheduled event," Espina said.

"It was not unnatural for the President to skip the graduation rites as she had done it before," he added.

But Espina could not confirm another instance when Arroyo did not attend the graduation rites of the PNPA.

Nevertheless, Espina said, "We would like to reaffirm our stand with the President."

Poor ticket sales KOs Pacquiao's concert

HONOLULU (Philippine Daily Inquirer)—The man who attracted one of the largest crowds in modern US boxing history with his hammer-like fists couldn't lure enough people to hear him sing in a concert.

A promoter in Hawaii says poor ticket sales forced the cancellation of Filipino boxer Manny Pacquiao's concert on Sunday in Waikiki.

Ryan Chang of Island Fire Productions on Tuesday said he stood to lose about $50,000 on the concert, even with late sales and walkups.

Only 603 tickets had been sold for the show at the Waikiki Shell, just days after 50,994 people—the largest crowd to see a fight in the United States in 17 years—watched Pacquiao retain his welterweight title against Joshua Clottey in Texas.

Pacquiao was going to earn $100,000 from the "Manny Pacquiao Live In Hawaii Concert Celebration." He made at least $12 million for last Saturday's (Sunday in Manila) fight.

Homecoming on Saturday

With the cancellation of his concert in Honolulu, Pacquiao moved his departure plans from Los Angeles to Thursday, which meant he could arrive in Manila as early as Saturday morning.

Another Pacquiao option is to proceed to Hawaii on Saturday and take the flight back to the Philippines on March 23, his chief of staff Jake Joson said.

A rousing welcome awaits Pacquiao in the Philippines.

At the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, he will be given the traditional arrival honors after which he will proceed to the New World Hotel for breakfast, according to Joson.

There are other activities lined up for him, such as motorcades and guest appearances, but they will need Pacquiao's final approval.

Bigger parade

What is certain is the grand launch on March 26 of Pacquiao's candidacy for the Sarangani seat in Congress.

Also in the planning stages is a guest appearance in a fight card in Dubai featuring his younger brother Bobby and other fighters from Cebu's ALA stable.

Pacquiao's patron, former Environment Secretary Lito Atienza, said the homecoming parade for Pacquiao would cover a wider area than previous parades for him, allowing more of his compatriots to see him.

"We will have the traditional motorcade around Metro Manila but we will cover more areas in Manila. He has a lot of fans in Manila," Atienza told the Inquirer.

Such a parade would also allow Atienza, who is running for his old seat as Manila mayor in the May elections, to bask in Pacquiao's glory.

'Second father'

Asked if his political rivals might not use the occasion to accuse him of politicking, Atienza shrugged it off, saying: "Magalaga muna sila ng sarili nilang talents (They should first nurture their own talents.)"

Atienza has described himself as being like a "second father" to Pacquiao, having supported the boxer for years, starting from the time Pacquiao was still a raw fighter.

In previous parades, Atienza was seen standing beside Pacquiao, waving to the champion's adoring fans.

"We have been part of his life and his career. My involvement with Manny dates back to his days when he was starting out as a boxer. It's not as if I'm moving in just now," Atienza said.

All districts

Atienza plans to welcome the champ at the airport.

He said that since he no longer held a position in government, he would bring Pacquiao to his house in San Andres, Manila, for coffee and to exchange stories on the Clottey fight.

Pacquiao's party will then proceed to the Quiapo Church to hear Mass. The victory motorcade will follow.

"We will have more or less the same route but we will add other areas in Manila. We will try to cover all the districts," Atienza said. The areas up for consideration are Binondo, Tayuman, Pandacan, Sta. Ana and San Andres.

Atienza said a visit to Malacañang to see President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was part of the plans "but we have not been contacted by the Palace."

Atienza is running against incumbent Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim and former Philippine National Police Director General Avelino Razon in the elections. ***Reports from Associated Press, Roy Luarca and Alcuin Papa***

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

1 hurt, hundreds lose homes in Cavite fire

SAN PEDRO, Laguna—A fireman was injured and hundreds more, mostly former employees of a defunct garment factory, lost their homes in a fire that engulfed an old building compound in Dasmariñas City, Cavite, on Thursday evening, fire officials said. Fire Officer 1 Elpedio Urbano suffered first-degree burns after accidentally dipping his ankle in a pool of water that heated up during the fire, they said. Fire Officer 2 and case investigator Rodolfo Golo said 390 families were displaced. Residents interviewed by the Philippine Daily Inquirer, however, claimed there were 600 families. But residents suspect that the fire was intentionally set to force them out of the property. The fire gutted the almost 1,000-square-meter abandoned compound previously owned by Interfashion Garments Inc. that closed down in 1990. Its workers, after losing their jobs at the factory, put up shanties materials inside the compound in Barangay (village) H2. Based on the initial report from the Bureau of Fire, the blaze started at 5:25 p.m. and was put out after almost four hours. ***(Philippine Dailay Inquirer)***

Cop linked to Capiz vice mayoral bet shot dead

ROXAS CITY, Philippines—A policeman closely identified with the vice mayoral bet of Pilar town in Capiz was shot dead Wednesday evening in Dulangan village in Pilar, Capiz. Senior Insp. Nasser Canja, Pilar police chief, said Police Officer 2 Edilberto Dagmil died upon arrival at the Bailan District Hospital in nearby Pontevedra town. Dagmil was previously assigned in Dulangan before he was transferred to the Capiz Police Provincial Office's Public Safety Management based at Camp Apil in Roxas City. Canja said the victim died of a lone gunshot wound at the back. He was sitting at the store of Remia Benigla-Dumagpi, daughter of incumbent Dulangan barangay (village) chairman Robinson Benigla, when suspect Egber Bendecio shot him at the back. A stray bullet hit a bystander, Lito Taneza, on the left buttock. Taneza was confined at the Capiz Emmanuel Hospital in Roxas City. The witnesses told the police that they heard four gunshots and then saw four persons, including the suspected gunman, walked casually towards the compound of Lyndofer Beup, municipal administrator of Santa Barbara, Iloilo, located just near the scene of the crime. ***(Inquirer Visayas)***

10 suspected drug peddlers, users nabbed in Laguna

MANILA, Philippines—Police arrested 10 people in Laguna for possession and use of illegal drugs in two separate operations, the provincial police chief said on Friday. Senior Superintendent Manolito Labador said the first operation resulted in the arrest of three people identified as Jomel Lanzanas, Arico Nervez, and Michael Perez. The three were arrested in Barangay (village) Canlalay in Binan past 1 a.m. after they were allegedly caught in the act of using drugs. Labador said confiscated from the suspects were methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu and various illegal drug paraphernalia. Meanwhile, seven more people were arrested by police in San Pablo City also for alleged illegal drugs use. Labador identified the suspects as Florence Santillian, Roberto de Guzman, Prudencio Baldovino, Angelino Jacar, Roberto Salvador, Phenalyn Edroso, and Michael Fandino. They were arrested at around 2 p.m. Thursday at Barangay San Juan also for alleged drug use and peddling. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Arroyo inviting military uprising—detained rebel general

MANILA, Philippines—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's plan to pick a new chief justice despite a ban on "midnight appointments" could spark a new round of military unrest, a rebel general running for the Senate warned Friday. While issuing that warning, detained Brigadier General Danilo "Danny" Lim made it clear he had no intention to take part in any plan to overthrow the government since he has "chosen a new path to pursue [his] advocacy for social change." "Mrs. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is inviting a new military uprising," said Lim in a statement. Lim claimed that military officers and their men were disappointed with the Supreme Court decision investing Ms Arroyo with the authority to appoint a successor to Chief Justice Reynato Puno, who retires on May 17, despite the Constitutional ban on end-of-term appointments by an outgoing President. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

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TAKE CHARGE

Facing foreclosure?

Question: Our family is in dire straits now. We bought a house from a developer five years ago, paying the down payment and borrowing the rest of the amount from the bank. Since the global financial crisis hit, our company suffered losses and I lost my job late last year. Now we are behind in payments to the bank for the housing loan, and can't continue the car payments too. I am afraid the bank may have to foreclose on our house and repossess the car also. What can we do?—Bong

Answer: Times can indeed be hard, especially after the global financial meltdown. The good news is that the world economies are picking up, and we have no doubt that soon you will be able to find a job. Just be diligent in searching for job opportunities.

In the meantime, it's good that you have asked for advice at this time, even before you get a notice of foreclosure from the bank (if ever you are bound to get one). There is still a lot you can do for now about your situation.

Here are our suggestions:

1 **Find out how much you are in debt.** Make a list of all the payments you have missed for your house and your car. Then make another list for the payments you are supposed to make until the payment term is finished. By writing down these amounts, you will get to see how much you need to raise in the next few years.

2 **Talk to your bank.** That's right, pick up the phone and call your bank to make an appointment to see the loan department. Then when you see the bank representative face to face, be honest and tell them that you are unable to pay the mortgage for now. Ask for options. Maybe they can restructure the loan and give you longer payment terms. Don't be afraid to talk to your bank or even avoid any communication with them. Your bank does not want to be stuck with many foreclosed assets, so they will gladly find a way to work with you regarding your loan.

3 **See if you have an asset you can sell to raise funds.** Maybe you can sell off jewelry or a piano, or some such other asset you can do without for now. Use the proceeds of the sale in paying off your overdue loan.

4 **Explore the possibility of borrowing funds from a relative.** This may be tricky as it may be difficult and can affect your relationship with your relative. However, if you can really pay off your loan from your relative someday, it won't hurt to ask for a loan today at friendly terms. Just be sure to put everything down in writing, give a collateralif any, and be prompt in paying the loan payments over the term agreed upon. You can use the loan from your relative to pay off your mortgage with the bank.

5 **Live simply and below your means.** Some belt-tightening is needed, and you have to be vigilant in checking where your money goes. Involve the family in this step and explain to them in a nice way that you have to forego some luxuries. Try to lessen the car trips and take public transport more. Eat more at home than outside in restaurants. Find bonding activities that would cost less than what you would spend on a movie with the family in the mall this weekend. A little sacrifice today will be worth it if that means you can have a clean title to your house someday.

6 **Consider selling your home.** If your home seems too expensive for you now, you might want to think about selling it and moving to a smaller and less expensive home. There are many good housing projects right now being built in good communities in the suburbs, and you might want to look at them.

7 **Be prompt in payments.** Once you have restructured your loan from the bank, don't be late anymore in paying, or miss paying altogether. This will drive finance charges up, burying you deeper in a hole. It will even affect your credit history.

You can get out of this situation, though, as a lot of people have done over the years. Just be patient, don't despair, and be proactive.

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Expats, envoys think Gordon is best person to run RP

By LIRA DALANGIN-FERNANDEZ
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Foreign business executives and members of the diplomatic community in the Philippines believe Senator Richard Gordon would be best person to run the country in the next six years. But given the chance to cast their votes, they said they would go for the winnable, Senator Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

In a mock polls conducted at the quarterly round table of the Wallace Business Forum Thursday in Shangri-la Hotel in Makati City, Gordon topped the list of candidates business executives think "can do the best job."

Gordon

Gordon is followed by administration candidate Gilbert Teodoro, Senator Manuel Villar, Aquino and former president Joseph Estrada.

A total of 35 executives of multinational companies and members of the diplomatic community participated in the mock polls. They were asked to rank the five candidates based on the questionnaire.

It was Aquino, however, whom the respondents think would win from the field of five choices. They also ranked Aquino their number one choice if they could vote in the May elections.

Villar came second to Aquino in the most winnable candidate, followed by Estrada, Teodoro and Gordon.

As for their choice of candidate if they could vote, Teodoro placed second, followed by Villar, Gordon and Estrada.

Teodoro was the group's special guest during the forum. He presented his platform on Charter change, reproductive health, peace and order, the economy and gave his view on the controversy surrounding the appointment of the next Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Asked to rank Teodoro in a scale of 10, with 10 as the highest, Peter Wallace, the head of the forum, gave the administration bet a 7 or 8.

"He obviously understands the issues very well. I think the various questions that are being raised to him, which concerns the business community, it seems he understands and I think he has come up with arguments and reassurances that reassures us," Wallace said.

Philippines presses Myanmar on Suu Kyi, election

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines vented its concern to Myanmar's top diplomat Wednesday over pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's detention and exclusion from upcoming elections but got no hint of any change, a Filipino official said.

Such criticisms are unusual among Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which bars members from intervening in each other's domestic affairs.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said he raised his concerns about the Nobel Peace laureate during a meeting with his Myanmar counterpart, U Nyan Win, on the sidelines of a Non-Aligned Movement conference in Manila.

"That's their law according to him," Romulo said, referring to Nyan Win's explanation as to why Suu Kyi will be barred from elections later year.

Asked if he was satisfied with Nyan Win's answers, the glum-looking Romulo replied: "He did not say much. If you asked me and I did not say much, will you be satisfied?"

AP
Philippine Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, right, welcomes Myanmar Foreign Minister U Nyan Win during their bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Special Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue for Peace and Development at the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila, Philippines on Wednesday March 17, 2010.

This year's elections in Myanmar will be the first since 1990, when Suu Kyi's party won a landslide victory. The junta ignored those results and has kept Suu Kyi jailed or under detention for 14 of the past 20 years. The Philippines has repeatedly called for her release.

An election law announced last week prohibits anyone convicted of a crime from being a member of a political party, making Suu Kyi ineligible to become a candidate in the elections or even a member of the party she co-founded and heads.

Suu Kyi was convicted last August of violating the terms of her house arrest by briefly sheltering an American who swam uninvited to her lakeside residence. She was sentenced to 18 more months of detention.

Nyan Win ignored a bevy of journalists who hounded the Myanmar diplomat during the Manila conference. But he told The Associated Press that Myanmar's elections chief will announce details about the elections, including the date when it will be held.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa, who visits Myanmar next month, told reporters in Manila he will inquire about the elections law and repeat his country's appeal that Suu Kyi be freed soon and allowed to participate in the polls.

ASEAN has yet to issue an official reaction to the new elections laws.

Filipina worker's 'unnatural death' in Singapore probed

MANILA, Philippines—Singapore police are investigating the March 15 death of a Filipina as a case of "unnatural death," the Philippine embassy in the city-state said.

In a report to the Department of Foreign Affairs, embassy charge d'affaires. Nathaniel Imperial said an autopsy has been conducted on the Filipina and the embassy has requested a copy of said autopsy report which it will provide to the deceased's next of kin.

"A coroner's inquiry will be conducted to determine the cause of death," Imperial said.

He said the embassy is assisting in the ongoing police investigation and will provide assistance to the family including the early repatriation of the Filipina's remains. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Filipino held by Aussie police in tea mix-up cleared

AUSTRALIA (AP)—A Filipina wedding planner holidaying in Australia was released from detention Thursday after being wrongly held for five days on drugs charges following a mix-up involving iced tea powder.

Melbourne Judge Jack Vandersteen ordered the director of public prosecutions to pay (AUS) $5,000 ($4,600) to Maria Cecilia Silva, 29, for her ordeal.

When Silva arrived in Melbourne airport from the Philippines on Saturday, drug-detection dogs reacted to ice tea packets in her luggage.

Tests on the powder returned a positive result for amphetamines and Silva was charged with importing a commercial quantity of drugs. Silva was handed over to the Australian Federal Police.

Follow-up tests, however, were negative, and prosecutors withdrew the charge of importing drugs.

A tearful Silva clung to a female prison guard as she was led through the court to a waiting friend.

"She's a totally innocent young lady who has experienced five days in a horrendous situation having her liberty taken away and placed in cells with some serious offenders," said her lawyer, Michael Penna-Rees.

"She's traumatized, she's lost a lot of weight and she'll be seeing a doctor."

The court heard that an ingredient in the tea sachets, which Silva purchased in Manila for a friend, was commonly mistaken for drugs, according to state radio. (***With Agence France-Presse***)

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Kris won't leave the Buzz, says ABS-CBN needs her for ratings

By MAILA AGER
INQUIRER.NET

LAOAG CITY, Philippines—No, controversial TV host Kris Aquino is not leaving her Sunday gossip show "The Buzz" on ABS-CBN, saying the network needs her for the ratings.

Aquino made the statement in an interview with some reporters here on Thursday.

"No. No, no," she said when asked if she would leave the program after she complained last week that she was being used to attack her brother, Senator Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

"Actually, if you review carefully what I said, sinabi ko sinabihan ako ng sisters ko na walang quitter sa pamilya. So klaro naman 'yon. So I will be there on Sunday," she said.

Asked if she would take a leave from her other television shows aside from her late night show "SNN" also on ABS-CBN, Kris answered in the negative.

"Alam mo masyado ka namang excited na mawala ako. Kawawa naman ang ABS-CBN, kailangan pa rin naman ako for the ratings," she said.

JOAN BONDOC

Kris Aquino promises to leave the country if brother Noynoy wins the presidency and she becomes a source of stress.

But she said she agreed to help the campaign her brother on a Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and on other important days that her presence in the campaign might be needed.

And to her critics,, Kris said she would just ignore them since she could not get them on her side anyway.

Asked why she thought she was the easy target by the senator's rivals in politics, Kris said, "Kasi sikat ako... Aminin na natin. 'Yan naman ang totoo."

"Kung wala akong pangalan, wala akong naipundar, hindi nila ako papansanin. E engot na ako kung papansinin ko pa sila. So ang papansinin ko na lang 'yong nagmamahal sa akin...," she said.

Kris also denied critics claim Noynoy was in a panic mode because his ratings in the surveys were dwindling and he was using her to improve his standing in surveys.

She said it was always part of the strategy that she would only join the campaign this March.

"But I don't think it's a sign of panic. It's a sign of strength," she said.

"Kasi bakit hindi naman gagamitin ni Noy na isama n'ya ako considering na mayron nang ready audience d'yan na medyo mayrong nagdadalawang-isip dahil di s'ya masyadong kilala. Tahimik s'ya simple s'yang tao. Maingay ako. So kelangan n'ya ganong klaseng ingay lang," Kris said.

"Pero I don't think its a sign of panic at all," she added.

'An advantage not a liability'

By MAILA AGER
INQUIRER.NET

LAOAG CITY, Philippines—Despite criticisms, Senator Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III believes his youngest sister, Kris, remains an "advantage" to his presidential bid.

But the senator was leaving it up to Kris to decide whether she would leave her talk show program on ABS-CBN following an insinuation she made over the weekend.

During Sunday's live show of "The Buzz," the TV host broke down into tears lamenting how she was being used to attack her brother.

She did not make clear, however, if she would leave the program.

Asked about this on Thursday, the senator said he would leave it up to her sister to decide for herself.

"Kung saan s'ya komportable. Mayron po s'yang mga responsibilidad sa mga pinirmahan n'yang kontrata...," he told reporters here.

Asked if he considered his sister a liability or a disadvantage to his campaign, the senator said, " Magkasama pa kami sa eroplano. Kung pabigat po ay siguro naman po ay hindi natin kasama." "Advantage po dahil talagang siguradong sigurado po tayo na meron tayong mga kapatid na talagang nagsasakripisyo at nagmamahal sa atin," he further said.

'Lola' best in Miami fest

Anita Linda in a scene from "Lola."

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Brillante Mendoza's "Lola" won the Grand Jury Prize in the World Competition of the 27th Miami International Film Festival held in the US city on March 13.

The film was awarded $25,000 from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

The fest's web site commended the film's star, "cinema icon Anita Linda," and its story for offering "an earnest, compassionate study of forgiveness and redemption."

The RP film bested 13 other entries from countries as diverse as Russia, Brazil, China, Bolivia and the Netherlands.

Special screening

Among the most notable directors in the section, dubbed a "high-profile" competition among the "world's up-and-coming" filmmakers, is Taiwan's Tsai Ming-Liang who fielded his latest work, "The Face."

Held during the Miami festival was a special screening of Argentinean Juan Jose Campanella's "The Secret in Their Eyes," Best Foreign Language Film in this year's Oscars. The screening was held after the awards ceremony.

Mendoza couldn't go to Miami because he was at the Deauville Asia Film Festival in France which presented a retrospective of his works. From there, he proceeded to Switzerland, where "Lola" competed in the Fribourg International Film Festival (awards ceremony set this weekend).

"Lola" is nominated for Best Film, Director and Editor (for Kats Serraon) at the Asian Film Awards in Hong Kong on March 22. It is also competing in the Las Palmas de Gran Canaria festival in Spain, which will close on March 20.

Copenhagen tribute

On the last weekend of March, Mendoza will serve as jury member in the Hong Kong International Film Festival.

From April 25 to May 5, three of Mendoza's films—"Kaleldo," "Kinatay" and "Lola"—will be screened in a Copenhagen film festival.

"Lola" will have a theatrical run in France starting May 5. It was also invited to the Tribeca Film Festival in New York in May.

Shooting stars for Kapamilya video

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Heartthrob Piolo Pascual was feeling under the weather when he drove to White Rock Beach in Subic to shoot for ABS-CBN's station ID "Summer ang Saya," but the actor's sequences turned out perfect.

He also did fine in the scenes with the "Banana Split" cast and actor Rafael Rosell.

Derek Ramsay, who lives in Tagaytay where some of the other scenes were shot, arrived on time in his Chrysler 300. He was already dressed and ready for the shoot. He reportedly didn't have trouble handling the horse that was needed for the scenes he had with other Kapamilya hunks Joem Bascon and Will Devaughn.

Show biz royalty KC Concepcion likewise had no trouble interacting with the Igorots during her shoot in Balara, Quezon City. It turned out that the natives were big fans of her mom Sharon Cuneta. KC reportedly got surprised when "PBB Double Up" housemate Jason Francisco asked for her autograph on the set.

Angelica Panganiban, who arrived in a dress inspired by her show "Rubi," had minimal makeup on but still looked stunning. She enjoyed being carried on the duyan and being serenaded by "Rubi" co-actor Diether Ocampo at the same time.

"Summer ang Simula," which features over 150 Kapamilya stars, will premiere March 21 on the noontime variety show "ASAP XV." It was produced by a team led by Robert Labayen, head of Creative Communications Management.

Piolo Pascual

Kris a turnoff in 'Buzz' breakdown

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Viewers were more turned off than moved by Kris Aquino's breaking down in "The Buzz" last Sunday. She was pleading for the nth time not to drag her brother Noynoy into the show biz controversies she gets embroiled in. The latest of these is her tiff with Ruffa Gutierrez, which prompted Ruffa's mom, Tita Annabelle, to lash out at Kris and appeal to the public not to vote for Noynoy.

How can people disassociate Kris from Noy when she's the "face" of his presidential campaign? Besides, she always brings up the names of her late great parents and also her siblings when she pleads for understanding about issues that plague her. Enough already.

Why do viewers have to be subjected to her cathartic moments every time she feels that people are ganging up on her?

Almost everybody in the biz has a "Kristeta Taklesa" story to tell. She knows how to dish it out so she should be able to take it.

Don't get me wrong; I'm not anti-Kris. I even came to her defense at the height of the issue about her "controversial encounter" with husband James Yap's rumored girl, Mayen Austria.

She has weathered countless scandals, so by now she should be shockproof. But viewers can never be "Krisproof." For some strange reason, she always has an interesting effect on people, whether they are her fans or not.

A naughty gay friend sent me a photo of a mock Kapamilya network logo that read: "ABS-CBN (Aquino Broadcasting System. Cge Boto Noynoy)." He placed a caption: "'Di ba mas magaling pa ang pa-underdog drama ni Kris sa 'The Buzz' than in her teleserye?"

■ ■ ■ ■

Sam Pinto is fast becoming the next "It Girl." She's being linked to Willie Revillame and Gerald Anderson.

Who is more her type? "Gerald," she quips. "I go for pretty boys like him, who are half-Pinoy and half-something."

Isn't she wary that the Kimerald fanatics will wage war against her? "Not really," she says. "Alam ko galit na ata sila sa akin (laughs). But they have nothing to be mad about. It's not like I'm going to snatch Gerald away from Kim. It's just a harmless crush."

■ ■ ■ ■

If there's one thing I like about Senator Bong Revilla, it's his ability to let things slide and just play it cool. Even if I have written several "revealing" column items about him in the past, he never took it against me.

In fact, when I attended his press gathering, he approached my table and said, "Thank you for always defending my son Jolo. Kinakapatid mo 'yun."

He's also grateful to the show biz industry that introduced him to millions of people who gave their trust and confidence to him. That's living La Vida Revilla!

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Noynoy's albatross

If Sen. Manuel Villar has his c-5 controversy, Sen. Benigno Aquino III has his Hacienda Luisita issue. This vulnerability was exposed yet again when the *New York Times* ran a prominently placed news story about "the second-biggest family-owned piece of land in the Philippines," and included quotes from a cousin of the presidential candidate essentially contradicting the Aquino campaign's official position.

Aquino gave a briefing to reporters the day the provocative story came out, saying his cousin, Fernando Cojuangco, the COO of the holding company that owns the hacienda, was unfairly misquoted. Unfortunately for Aquino, at this stage his word is not enough. Cojuangco must himself come out with the denial.

He must issue the denial—even if the story fell markedly short of the *Times'* usually rigorous standards. We say this because the story purported to give an overall perspective on both agrarian reform and the Luisita estate, but depended chiefly on sources known, at least in the Philippines, to be unsympathetic to the Aquinos or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program itself.

Consider just one instance: To support the story's sweeping claim that "most farmers' groups, scholars and businessmen question the department's figures" (referring to the Department of Agrarian Reform's statistics on redistributed land), the writer, the *Times*' Southeast Asia bureau chief, relied solely on Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano. We do not question Mariano's credentials; we only wish to point out that the story did not identify him as ideologically opposed to CARP itself, or as a vigorous campaigner against the extension program passed last year and which met the expectations of the more moderate bloc in Congress, or, indeed, as a close political ally of senatorial candidates running on the slate of Aquino's main rival.

But the story has taken on a life of its own because of some blockbuster sound bites from Cojuangco. In direct opposition to Aquino's oft-stated position that the Cojuangco heirs—the six families, including that of the late President Cory Aquino, who own a majority of the shares—had already decided, in the senator's words, on "at the very minimum changing what is present there," Cojuangco said the families weren't about to sell their share of the hacienda.

"No, we're not going to. I think it would be irresponsible because I feel that continuing what we have here is the way to go. Sugar farming has to be; it's the kind of business that has to be done plantation-style."

In his rebuttal, Aquino said: "My understanding is—and I cleared this up when I asked—I said 'We're all clear that this is really no longer viable for anybody. That running it in the present scheme is not a sound venture.' That was clear to everybody." Maybe, but it doesn't explain Cojuangco's statement, which seems to have been issued after that family meeting. Cojuangco himself must issue the denial, and be specific about it.

But if Aquino wins the presidential election in May, nothing Cojuangco says will be as important as the least word, or hint, from his cousin. In other words, if Aquino wins the presidency, the Luisita issue will not go away; it will in fact only get worse for him. Then he wouldn't be able to have recourse to family meetings and group consensus (even though he personally owns only a very small share of the hacienda); as president, it will be his albatross, and his neck, alone.

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Beloved

There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

There weren't too many surprises in Pulse Asia's survey of this country's most beloved leaders.

Cory Aquino naturally led the pack by a mile. She got 35 percent against the 15 percent of her closest rival, Ferdinand Marcos. That should have been obvious from the sense of loss the country felt at her passing last year, and the outpouring of love it sent her on her way to her final resting place. Of course, Ninoy Aquino also met the same fervor when he died from a bullet in the head in 1983, but he got only 8 percent. I can only imagine that that was because he did not live long enough to have the kind of impact on the country Cory did.

It's a reminder that though Cory had her share of faults and wrong turns, she was hands-down the best president this country had. A good reminder particularly at a time when the barbs are turning ugly and text messages and partisans in Facebook/Twitter are saying "Better the magnanakaw (thief) than the mamamatay-tao (murderer)" in reference to the violence in Luisita. People do not normally brave storms and tumble out like a flood, mingling tears with rain and vowing eternal remembrance, for the mamamatay-tao. What they normally do is stay away from the sinungaling (liar), if not indeed revile them.

I'm not surprised either by Marcos' landing second, though a poor one. I got an inkling of that many years ago when I got invited to NU one September 21. It was part of the station's effort to rock-educate its listeners, and I spoke a bit on how things were before and after martial law. The call-ins surprised me, a good many of the callers saying things were so much better then than now, so Marcos might not have been all that bad. Some of the callers positively evoked a Golden Age, when the land teemed with milk and honey, or at least did not teem with the hungry and destitute. The callers were predominantly young; I'd put them in their 20s and 30s, which is infinitely young from where I'm at.

It was the first time I realized how Marcos had gotten away not just by rewriting history but by making a great deal of it invisible. The rewriting of history was epic enough in itself. I was bowled over a few years ago by the reaction of a couple of not so very young people from the north when I said that clearly Marcos had better writers then than GMA has now. They were astonished. How could that be, they asked, when everybody knew Marcos not only wrote all his books but delivered all his speeches extemporaneously, never needing a written text or teleprompter. That was what they learned in a school in Ilocos. Truly history has the tremendous power, however neglectful we are of it, or precisely because of it, to shape, reshape and misshape us.

But more than that, Marcos also managed to hide the mind-boggling cost of the seeming prosperity of the 1970s. The 1970s were relatively good times economically, and I do not blame people who talk about how beer then never outstripped the cost of rice. Prices were stable for most of the decade, the peso still amounting to something.

But all that came at an exorbitant price. Not just in the form of the blood of the people, mostly youth, who died fighting it—though that would remain the biggest cost of all, but in the form of an astronomical debt which we continue to pay to this day. And which our children and their children will continue to pay up to their day. That was the time of the petrodollars, a time when the foreign banks were awash in cash and badgering the poor countries, many of them in the grip of tyrants like Marcos, to borrow. Marcos did, like an addict. Much of the money he and his cronies stole, the rest found its way into the economy and helped prop it up. Until the bubble burst.

Marcos' 15 percent is the price of ignorance—our ignorance. And a testament to the failure of my generation to make sure "Never again!" would truly be never again.

That brings us to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. I don't know that anyone will be surprised to know she got only 2 percent, other than those who will be surprised how she got any percent at all. The reason is not hard to see. GMA is not worse than Marcos, nobody is worse than Marcos in scale of oppression and contribution to keeping this country backward, a thing that hits you in the face every time you visit a thriving Southeast Asian neighbor. But she isn't far behind, and given 10 more years she can match him ruthlessness for ruthlessness, venality for venality.

But Marcos had a couple of things GMA does not. Charm is not one of them; neither will be remembered for it. One is that Marcos won the elections twice before he turned dictator. GMA never won the elections, becoming president first as a byproduct of Edsa II and second as a direct product of "Garci." The first time Marcos won, he and Imelda were being touted by US newspapers as the Kennedys of the East. GMA is known only as the one who has served longest after Marcos without once being voted to power.

The other thing Marcos—and Imelda—did was to buy goodwill in their provinces. What little was left after their massive pillage, they diverted to those places, earning godhood for Marcos in the Ilocos and surreptitious admiration for Imelda in Leyte (and among artists, if her last birthday was anything to go by). If the Cabalens will be ready to die alongside the daughter of the poor man from Lubao, only they can say.

It's not true at all that the evil that men do lives after them, the good is oft interred with their bones. And in any case Mark Anthony meant that completely ironically, proposing in fact the opposite. The good that men—and women—do is what lives on, the evil merely ending up a stony face in Agoo, a feast for crows. Cory shows so, and just in time for Edsa. She is this country's:

Beloved.

How to become invisible

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

There was a time when Gilda Cordero Fernando infected me with her interest in Philippine folklore. She told me about some graduate courses in UP being taught by Damiana Eugenio, E. Arsenio Manuel (1909-2003) and Fr. Francisco Demetrio, SJ (1920-1996). These three, together with Maximo D. Ramos, wrote the standard works found in bibliographies of any serious research on Philippine folklore, so I decided to visit Diliman one Saturday to see what was showing. Unfortunately, Miss Eugenio was not teaching that term, so I just bought her books. Dr. Manuel was teaching a course on Philippine Pre-History, and Father Demetrio had a seminar on folklore.

You were better off reading Manuel than sitting in his classroom. Even better was chatting with him in the Faculty Center canteen because he was hard of hearing and you had to shout in his right ear to be heard.

Father Demetrio's class was engaging, but I couldn't concentrate on his lecture. I was distracted by a brown paper bag he had on the table. This brown bag contained a can of Coke, an orange and a handful of hard candies. Two hours into a graduate class made my stomach rumble and I was fixated on the brown paper bag that was only to be opened in the unlikely event that Father Demetrio's blood sugar dropped.

Demetrio published a four-volume "Dictionary of Philippine Folk Beliefs and Customs" (1970) and a two-volume "Encyclopedia of Philippine Folk Beliefs and Customs" (1991). Both are compilations of various beliefs and customs arranged by topic. In the section on amulets and talismans, we find a wide array of weapons against evil. In an age and place where people still believe in witches and aswang, the following were supposed to keep these creatures of midnight at bay: ashes on your doorsteps, sharp objects like bolos and sharpened bamboo called "bagacay" displayed as a warning. You could also keep and or display a broom, bullets, garlic, or ray's tail (buntut pagi) to scare away these creatures. Of course, religious objects like a crucifix, images of saints, holy water, palm blessed on Palm Sunday, Bibles and prayer books could be used but sometimes people made a mixture of: brunt bones, hair, feathers, rubber, holy water. A prayer (oracion) written on paper or packed in black cloth served the same purpose. These things were apotropaic or meant to ward away evil.

Many charms and talismans were charged during Holy Week. A special concoction of oil with assorted roots and herbs placed in a bottle was said to boil and bubble when a witch or aswang was near. If you could recite the "Apostle's Creed" or "Lord's Prayer" backwards, that also did the trick. Burning rubber tires drove witches away (but I must warn that this is bad for the environment and people, too).

Not all charms were against creatures of lower mythology. There were some that brought good fortune, but they were a bit difficult to obtain. For example, you had to find a rat and centipede fighting, if the centipede won you had to catch and dry it. When you went to the cockpit, the dried centipede should be soaked in water which would then be sprinkled on the cock to ensure a victory.

Other lucky charms included mushrooms with three legs (whatever that means) and lizards with two tails.

Some had practical uses. Goat beard when cut and placed in a corner of one's house ensured that the goat would always return home. If you wanted to be waterproof, you needed a charm from a gabi plant. Chicken manure buried in a field would keep chickens away (I thought manure was used as fertilizer).

If you caught a pugo (quail) and rubbed it on your face, you would become invisible. The same for heron's eggs which, according to Rizal in "Noli me tangere," were invisible and could only be seen when these were under water.

Another invisibility amulet required that you bury a black cat and come back a year later during Holy Week to dig it up. If you found one black bone among the remains, that would make you invisible.

The most disgusting way to become invisible was to gather the tongue and small fingers of a dead child that had been buried for three days. But this gruesome amulet only worked with a special "oracion" that is not listed by Demetrio.

To see invisible or unseen beings, you must place cat's mote in your eyes. The same power could be had with dog's mote.

Some of Demetrio's informants suggested the strangest processes: "To protect oneself against thieves, a skull is taken at midnight from the cemetery. The owners of the skull will appear in a dream and tell the holder to pray for nine consecutive nights and to prepare a feast for the dead on the ninth day. If this is fulfilled, the skull in return will help the holder by protecting his house from thieves when he is away. It is said that all loose things inside and outside the house start moving and making noise when a thief is around, thus scaring him away."

And another: "At night, when a star falls or shoots, the belief is that a person acquires a special charm or anting-anting if he can tie a knot on a handkerchief during that very brief fall and before a star or meteor disappears. Or he should run when the star is falling to become a very fast runner."

Most of the data were collected by Demetrio almost 50 years ago. A younger scholar today should begin compiling folk beliefs and customs to see what concerns Filipinos in the 21st century.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

CONGRATULATIONS

Maria Christina Espeleta Ano, second from left, poses with her classmates during the Cohort 7 Commencement Exercises of Framingham State College held at the Multi-Center Building in Susupe, on March 13, 2010. Ano obtained her master's in education. Others in the photo are, from left, Kate Borja, Jackie Echon, and June Fitila Seman.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Maria Felomina S. Quitugua, center, is named G4S Security Services (CNMI) Inc.'s employee of the month for January 2010. She is shown here with her supervisor Danny Lapeceros and operation manager Moises K Pangelinan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PROMOTING THE CULTURE

The Refaluwasch Cultural Club at Marianas High School has started a trend on campus that showcases their Carolinian heritage every Fridays of the week. They will be coming to school wearing Carolinian thu, mwar, usous (beads), and ubwut woven into headbands, arm bands, or chest garland. It was an idea that their main adviser, Mrs. Denita Yangetmai, came up with and suggested to the students. The idea behind this is not only to showcase their cultural wear, but also to allow those members that are not yet well versed in making mwar and the other Carolinian wear learn the skills. At the same time they are also expected to learn other aspects of their culture. In a way, it's a cultural revival thing.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 9th birthday to Jovina Cecilia "BinBin" Nestor Pua! Greetings come from your Daddy, Mommy, and LouJessVonnie.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

JAPANESE DELEGATION

Saipan Hotel Corp. president Katsutoshi Nagayama and his son, Saipan Hotel Corp. vice president Katsutoshi Nagayama, are joined by 61 other Japanese guests currently staying at the Hafadai Beach Hotel. The group visited the Japanese monument, Last Command Post, Banzai Cliff and Suicide Cliff. They presented flowers and Japanese sake at each spots to comfort the souls of World War II victims.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COURTESY VISIT

Ranking official of the U.S. Military Entrance Processing Command pay a visit to the Office of the Governor to offer appreciation for the recruitment efforts of CNMI residents through the MOU with the Guam National Guard. From left, MEPCOM staffer Ted Novacyz, Deputy J7 US MEPCOM Col. Robert Ruiz, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, US MEPCOM Wester Sector Commander Col. Charlie Dunston, and WO1 Bernard Aguon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COURTESY VISIT

From left, outgoing Joint Region Marianas Commander Rear Adm. Douglass Biesel, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, incoming Rear Adm. Paul J. Bushong, and special political adviser Roy Tsutsui have their picture taken at the Office of the Governor during the two military officials' courtesy visit this week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Youngstyle

Teen hopes her Internet innovation brings us all a bit closer

By SACHI FUJIMORI
THE RECORD (HACKENSACK, N.J.)

MCT
After only having her blog, Outside My Window, active for a few weeks, Corie Burke, 17, of Wyckoff, N.J., is already receiving 7 to 8 daily photo submissions from around the world. You can view her blog at www.outsidemywindow.tk

Andreea, an 18-year-old from Romania, sent a photograph of the view from her window and included a brief apology: "Sorry, this picture is plain and boring. No one would like it."

At home in Wyckoff, N.J., Coreen Burke, 16, clicked on the same image in her inbox and saw a quaint village, its rooftops and walls painted in vivid reds and yellows, a distant chimney puffing smoke.

"Isn't this amazingly different from the United States?" she thought to herself.

Burke, a willowy teenager with a knack for computers, saw potential in that rural photo. She posted it to her blog, Outside My Window, which features a daily snapshot of someone's window view around the world.

The concept is simple: We can all relate to the act of staring through a pane of glass, onto the humming of the scene on the other side. But call Burke a modern-day Pollyanna, because she hopes the project might do even more.

"Maybe if we understood the way people from all over the world live," she explained, "we would all get along better than we have been lately."

With the click of a mouse, you can see Frederic's window in the south of France, looking out on sailboats anchored in a tranquil harbor. Or Celika's window in Tijuana, Mexico, peering at a barbed-wire-topped wall at the California border. Or Virginia's view in Ramsey, a winter scene with trees laced in white.

Like most high school students, Burke has yet to travel the world. The extent of her foreign travel is Canada. But she says someday she hopes to collect stamps in her passport, starting with Greece and India. For now, she navigates the Web with the ease of a frequent flier. Her recent Christmas break was devoted to launching the site with a Blogger account and recruiting contributors from deviantART, an online art community.

She posted the first window view from Switzerland, a sunset captured by an 18-year-old. Then others came flowing in by e-mail, up to seven a day, from as far as Kazakhstan and Indonesia.

Contributors are marked on maps tacked on her bedroom wall: A blue dot indicates their country and a pink dot shows their city, if they provide it. The most responses have come from Europe—Estonia, Poland, Italy, Germany, the Czech Republic and Sweden, to name a few. She could use help finding Macedonia on the map, and she is crossing her fingers that she'll receive a photo from Africa or Antarctica, which are unrepresented so far.

As curator of the site, Burke can execute her vision exactly as she sees it. For example, she adheres to the "less is more" dictum, listing only the photographer's name, age, and location.

"I didn't want it to be writing about your life," she said. "I wanted it to be simple. Get a picture from each and move on. That way you can see the whole world in a day." She nixes pictures that are not to her taste, such as a shot of two raccoons outside a window, their bushy tails hogging the frame.

Burke is also what you'd call no-nonsense. The straight-talking redhead is too busy with the demands of her non-virtual life—homework, club volleyball and track practice—to spend time corresponding with her contributors. She's not looking to make pen pals.

But she was curious about a girl from the Azores, who sent the view from what appeared like a posh location, a floor-to-ceiling window set against crashing ocean waves. She showed it to her family and they debated about whether it was actually a restaurant or a tourist site.

"Is this a house?" Burke wrote the Azores girl.

"Yes, it's my house," the girl responded.

"I was really impressed," said Burke.

Burke is glad to include submissions from friends. Kat, a friend who lives around the corner, recently submitted a summer photo through a window screen. It showed an ice cream truck parked next to a lawn.

That's her Pollyanna side. Burke believes everyone's milieu has potential for beauty. "You may think your location is boring, but someone living 3,000 miles away may think it is the most interesting place in the world," she wrote in a pitch letter to major media outlets.

Web site of the week: Brizzly

By ERIC GOODWIN
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Social networking is a great way of keeping up with people, news and events. As you join additional networking services, however, the process of logging in and out of them can grow tedious, especially if all you want to do is to scan recent updates. For those with both Facebook and Twitter accounts, Brizzly (http://brizzly.com/) offers a streamlined way to keep on top of all your news feeds.

Besides convenient social media browsing, Brizzly has a few other handy tricks.

For Twitter accounts, the service will automatically expand shortened links twitterers use in their posts (Twitter has a 140 character limit, so if twitterers want to post a link to something on the Internet, they typically use a URL shortening service like TinyURL or Bit.ly to truncate long Web addresses). This way you'll know exactly where a link is pointing to before clicking it.

In addition to expanding shortened Web links, Brizzly also expands photo and video links, allowing you to view pictures and video clips within your Twitter news feed—another way to save time and mouse clicks.

You can also save drafts of your Twitter posts, upload photos and more. You can even "mute" users if you need a break from their postings.

Brizzly's Facebook tools aren't quite as robust as its Twitter utilities but it still gives you most of what you need. Brizzly will load your news feed and allow you to comment and "like" posts. You can also update your Facebook status as well as view your wall updates.

Brizzly even has a special tab that filters your wall updates to

view only exchanges with your friends. Brizzly's recent activity tab displays active Facebook posts you've liked or commented on within the last seven days as well as posts you made that your friends have liked or commented on (merely liking a post won't get it added to the "recent activity" list; the post needs comments, either from you or other people, to show up in this tab).

However, you can't upload photos or generate Facebook events from Brizzly ... yet. In it's introductory video, the Brizzly team says they plan to add more Facebook functions in the future. You'll also notice that Facebook feeds take slightly longer to load than Twitter updates.

Hoops star Magic Johnson supports school's charity program for Ethiopia

By HUGH R. MORLEY
THE RECORD (HACKENSACK, N.J.)

TENAFLY, N.J.—Sporting his trade-mark grin and a black track-suit, Earvin "Magic" Johnson came to town Sunday to support a Tenafly Middle School program that helps students in Ethiopia.

As he arrived, Johnson sparked a commotion among students and parents, who thrust basketballs, sneakers, photos and shirts at him, hoping for a signature.

Desperate cries of "Magic! Magic!" filled the air as youngsters tried to gain his attention.

Johnson spent 30 minutes watching a teachers-vs.-students basketball game, part of a fund-raiser for the school's Global Care Unlimited club, which is building a school in Ethiopia.

Before the game, Johnson spoke privately to about 30 club members about their efforts, and then praised them at the Tenafly's High School

MCT
Earvin "Magic" Johnson was inducted into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame in Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 22, 2009.

gymnasium, where the game took place.

"This is really important," he told the more than 600 people who attended the game.

"If we can stand up and give these students a standing ovation," he said. "This is really what it's all about—giving those who are less fortunate than ourselves an education."

Afterward, Johnson attended a sold-out benefit dinner, which cost between $60 and $500 a ticket, and attracted 200 diners.

Mark Hyman, a teacher at the middle school who founded the club, said he expected the dinner and game—which included raffles for a ball signed by NBA All-Stars along with other NBA paraphernalia—to raise between $30,000 and $40,000.

For some of those present, however, Johnson's proximity was the real prize, along with some coaching advice he offered the team.

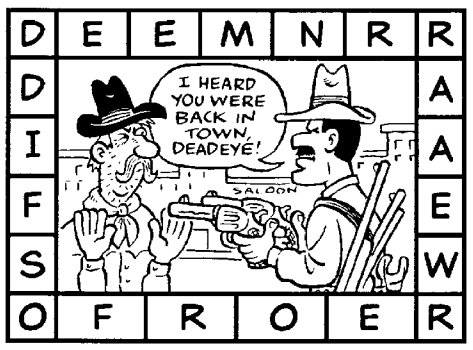
"It was pretty awesome," said Joe Germinder, 14, one of the students picked to play in the game. "My heart skipped a beat when he walked in."

The funds raised will go pay for a new wing at a school in Awassa, Ethiopia. The project, at cost of $50,000, will accommodate 150 high school students. The club previously raised money to build the school for 225 students in pre-kindergarten to eighth grade.

About 10 percent of the funds raised Sunday will also go to help earthquake victims in Haiti. The club, which also has a branch in Demarest Middle School, has in the past raised funds to clear minefields and help Cambodian landmine survivors.

Kenneth Acquah, 11, a sixth-grader at Tenafly Middle School and club member, said the basketball star's participation had sparked great enthusiasm in the club.

"I'm from Ghana so I decided that I wanted to help countries like that develop," he said. "I'm very excited because I'm a basketball fan. And we are going to raise a lot of money."



HIDDEN IN THE ABOVE FRAME is a famous proverb. Find it by reading every other letter as you go around counterclockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answer: Starting with the "F" in the left rail: "Forewarned is forearmed."

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

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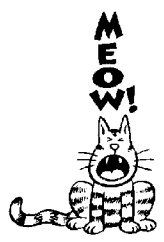
THIS PUZZLE IS THE CAT'S MEOW!

X	O	B	R	E	T	T	I	L	Y	N	X	A	K	Y
P	C	C	I	T	S	E	M	O	D	R	E	R	I	A
C	W	H	I	S	K	E	R	S	L	E	S	O	T	B
L	P	E	R	S	I	A	N	A	J	H	E	G	T	M
A	K	E	P	C	A	T	N	I	P	T	M	N	E	O
W	L	T	D	R	A	P	O	E	L	N	R	A	N	B
S	I	A	M	E	S	E	C	H	R	A	U	G	A	J
C	M	H	T	A	C	B	O	B	U	P	B	U	P	K



Illustrated by David Coulson

Hidden in the diagram above are names and words associated with cats. They can be found by reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the words you're looking for.

Angora, Balinese, Bobcat, Bombay, Burmese, Catnip, Cheetah, Claws, Domestic, Jaguar, Kitten, Leopard, Litter box, Lynx, Milk, Panther, Persian, Siamese, Whiskers

A SODA SHOP REBUS! What seven letters did this clerk say when the young lady finished her soda?

Answer: OICURMT (Oh, I see you are empty.)

FIND THE SEVEN WORDS PUZZLE! In the word square to the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "FLARED." See if you can replace these letters in the squares so that you will have four three-letter words across and three four-letter words down. Time limit: 60 seconds.

F		A	
L		C	E
A	I		E
R			D
E			
D			

Answers: (Across): Fad, ace, ire, led. (Down): Fail, acre, deed.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was British romance author Jilly Cooper who made the following observation: "The male is a domestic animal which, if treated with firmness, can be trained to do most things."

■ What do Steve Martin, Donald Trump, Dan Aykroyd, Gene Simmons, Leslie Nielsen, Burt Reynolds, Jerry Seinfeld and Peter Sellers have in common? They've all been featured on the cover of Playboy magazine.

■ Those who study such things claim that the hair on top of your head grows more rapidly than the hair on the sides of your head.

■ If you're up on your Biblical standards of measurement, you probably already know that a handbreadth equals 3 inches, a span is 9 inches and a cubit equals 18 inches.

■ Before horror author Stephen King became famous for novels such as "Carrie," "The Stand" and "The Shining," he wrote four novels and 60 short stories that failed to be accepted for publication.

■ If you're ever visiting Woodruff, Wisc., be sure to stop by and see its penny. The tourist attraction is 10 feet tall and weighs 17,452 pounds.

■ It's not surprising that the word "fondue" comes from the French verb "fondre," which means "to melt."

■ With the health-care debate so much in the news these days, you've probably heard of the pharmaceutical company Bristol-Myers Squibb. Given its multi-billion-dollar revenues today, you may be surprised to learn that way back in the 19th century when William McLaren Bristol and John Ripley Myers were just getting started, they paid a mere $5,000 for their fledgling pharmaceutical company.

■ If you suffer from ophidiophobia—and many people do—you may find the following tidbit to be rather unsettling: There are more than 3,000 different species of snakes.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "A clever person solves a problem. A wise person avoids it."— Albert Einstein

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MAGIC MAZE ● SOUTH —

M	Z	W	T	Q	N	K	H	D	A	X	R	U	R	P
M	J	G	C	D	A	X	V	S	Q	E	N	K	I	F
D	A	X	A	V	D	T	Q	A	V	O	M	J	H	F
C	A	Y	R	W	A	U	E	I	R	P	N	L	D	D
J	H	F	O	N	K	R	R	D	B	S	Z	X	N	V
T	R	Q	L	O	O	E	M	A	K	I	I	E	A	H
F	D	B	I	K	T	T	F	Z	Y	D	B	W	L	V
T	R	Q	N	T	A	R	P	O	L	E	L	O	S	N
L	K	I	A	C	I	R	E	M	A	N	T	E	I	V
H	F	L	D	C	I	F	I	C	A	P	A	C	I	A
Z	P	X	A	W	V	U	H	S	R	H	Q	O	N	F

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Africa, America, Beach, Bend, Carolina, Field, Hampton, Island, Korea, Pacific, Platte River, Pole, Sea, Side, Vietnam

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	+		x		30
+		–		x	
	÷		+		10
x		x		–	
	÷		x		14
30		21		17	

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 3 3 4 6 7 8 9

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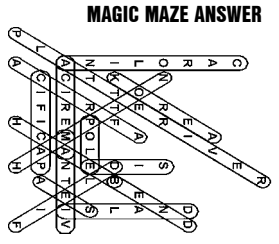
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



SOLUTION

GO FIGURE ANSWER

	17		21		30
14	7	x	3	÷	6
	–		x		x
10	8	+	2	÷	4
	x		–		+
30	3	x	9	+	1

Neighbors fear Miss Itzy

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My 4-year-old Dachshund, "Miss Itzy," is very aggressive with all of my neighbors, friends and some of my family. However, she's a sweetheart around my granddaughter and great-grandchildren. She has to wear a muzzle when she gets her nails trimmed or goes to the vet. I'm so afraid she will bite someone. I love her to death and don't want to get rid of her. Can you help?—Maria, Marion, Ind.

DEAR MARIA: You should find out what your granddaughter and great-grandchildren are doing that makes Miss Itzy so calm around them. (Do they have dogs of their own? How do they train their dogs?) There's something about the way they interact with your dog that really calms her down.

Miss Itzy is likely aggressive due to anxiety. The clues in your letter—aggression toward strangers, the groomer, the vet—show that she's got a lot of worries about these strange people. The groomer and vet are easy to spot—most dogs do not like nail trimming or getting exams and shots.

Another question is, how do you act around neighbors, the vet or groomer? Do you get anxious (maybe because you're worried that Miss Itzy will get anxious)? Dogs are really good at reading owners' emotions, and Miss Itzy, devoted to you as she is, will get more anxious, and even take a protective posture, if she thinks you're afraid or in danger.

Talk to the veterinarian about prescribing anti-anxiety medication for Miss Itzy, and talk with a professional trainer, if possible, about ways to train your dog to settle down in unfamiliar situations. Also, observe your own behavior in different situations and try to keep a calm and level voice, even when your dog is barking her head off.

■ ■ ■

Send your pet questions to Sam Mazzotta at ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet resources at www.PawsCorner.com.

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Eggs-quisite natural dyes and designs

Bring back the past by dyeing your Easter eggs the way it used to be done—with natural items straight from the kitchen and garden.

Here's what you'll need:

■ Hard-boiled eggs or blown eggs (see below for how to blow eggs)

■ Nontoxic, safe food items such as blueberries or red cabbage leaves for blue, walnut shells, tea or coffee for tan, red beets for gray. Experiment with what you have on hand.

■ Medium-size saucepans (one per color)

■ Water

■ Vinegar

■ Slotted spoon

■ Strainer

■ Mixing bowls

■ Cooking oil and soft cloth

Pour 1 cup water into a saucepan and add a handful of an item such as berries, or cut-up fruits and vegetables. Bring to a boil and simmer about 15-30 minutes until the water turns the color you wish. (The eggs will dye in a lighter color than the color in the pan). Strain the colored water into a small mixing bowl. Add 2 teaspoons of white vinegar to each cup of liquid.

Add eggs to the natural dyes. Turn them around occasionally. Note that colors will be subtler than commercial dyes. Remove the eggs with a slotted spoon and let them air dry. When dry, polish with a small amount of cooking oil applied to a soft cloth. Refrigerate boiled eggs.

Drying Tip: For a convenient drying rack for blown eggs, set several wooden skewers in a chunk of floral foam. Insert skewer through the hole at the bottom of the dyed egg.

Extra idea: Onion skin dyeing method with plant designs.

Place 2 or 3 handfuls of loose yellow onion skins in a saucepan. Cover with water and bring to a boil. Simmer 15-30 minutes. Add 2 teaspoons white vinegar. Strain and cool.

Meanwhile, arrange one or two nontoxic flat leaves, ferns, fresh dill or parsley on blown or boiled eggs. Carefully cover the egg with a piece of doubled cheesecloth.

Gather the cloth snuggly, and tie with white string. Wrap several eggs. Set them in onion dye until desired reddish-brown shade appears. Remove from dye. Let dry before removing cheesecloth and plants.

Here's how to blow out the contents of eggs: Poke a small hole with a straight pin at each end of a washed raw egg. Carefully wiggle a toothpick or wooden skewer into one of the holes to break the yolk. Place a drinking straw over the hole on top, and blow through the straw, collecting the contents of the egg in a small dish. Rinse out the empty shell and let dry. Store in an empty egg carton.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Private drama plagues Oscar winner Sandra Bullock

Sandra Bullock is on a career high. America's Sweetheart and "Miss Congeniality" was repeatedly anointed as Hollywood royalty this year, sweeping awards season and capping it off with an Oscar for her role as a devoted mom in "The Blind Side."

But as this Tinseltown fairy-tale played out on camera, real-life drama may have been brewing behind the scenes.

With worldwide attention on the brand-new Oscar winner—who first captured hearts as a brave bus passenger in 1994's "Speed" and went on to amass more than two dozen movie credits—Bullock is being dogged by tabloid reports of problems with her husband of nearly five years.

Internet rumors surfaced Wednesday that the 45-year-old actress' husband, celebrity motorcycle builder and reality-TV star Jesse James, had been unfaithful while she was making her Oscar-winning film. Bullock subsequently canceled a planned appearance next week at the London premiere of "The Blind Side," citing "unforeseen personal reasons."

On Thursday, James apologized to his wife and three children from previous relationships through a statement issued to People magazine and later obtained by The Associated Press.

"It's because of my poor judgment that I deserve everything bad that is coming my way," he said. "This has caused my wife and kids pain and embarrassment beyond comprehension and I am extremely saddened to have brought this on them."

He added that "the vast majority of the allegations reported are untrue and unfounded," but offered no other details, saying, "Beyond that, I will not dignify these private matters with any further public comment."

Representatives for Bullock did not respond to calls and e-mails seeking comment Thursday.

Publicly, there was no indication of strife as the couple appeared happily arm-in-arm throughout Hollywood's awards season while Bullock racked up the accolades.

She called her husband "sexy" as she accepted her Screen Actor's Guild award. Backstage, he held her purse as she spoke to reporters.

At the Golden Globes, Bullock told James from the stage, her voice cracking with emotion: "There's no surprise that my work got better when I met you. Because I never knew what it felt like for someone to have my back."

Things were different at the Academy Awards.

Bullock did not thank her husband, who appeared teary-eyed on camera as she accepted her award. Instead she thanked mothers and parents everywhere—including a poignant tribute to her own mother—along with her fellow nominees and "everyone who's shown me kindness when it wasn't fashionable."

Still, Bullock and James, 40, walked hand-in-hand down Oscar's red carpet, celebrated together at the parties afterward and were photographed outside a Long Beach burger joint the next day.

The actress and the "Monster Garage" star met in 2003 and married in 2005. Initially deemed an odd match by some—she's the girl next door, he's a tattooed bad-boy—the couple stayed blissfully out of the public eye while continuing their individual successes.

Bullock had dated actors, including Matthew McConaughey and Ryan Gosling, and was engaged to Tate Donovan, but her marriage to James is her first. James had been married twice before and is in an ongoing dispute with his most recent ex-wife over custody of their 5-year-old daughter, Sunny.

Bullock has said she loves James' children as though they were her own and that the eldest, Chandler, selected her regal Oscar gown.

AP

Sandra Bullock and Jesse James arrive at the Vanity Fair Oscar party on in this March 7, 2010 file photo taken in West Hollywood, Calif.

While winning an Academy Award can be a boon to actors' careers, it's not always great for their personal lives. Sean Penn won the best-actor Oscar last year for "Milk" and split with his wife, Robin Wright Penn, a few months later. (He didn't thank her in his speech, either.) Last year's best-actress winner, Kate Winslet, separated from her husband, director Sam Mendes, earlier this week. ***(AP)***

ABC hires Amanpour for Sunday morning job

NEW YORK (AP)—ABC News has hired Christiane Amanpour, one of CNN's best-known personalities for her hard-nosed reporting from war zones over the past two decades, to host its Sunday morning political talk show starting this summer.

She replaces George Stephanopoulos, who left the show in December to take over as co-host of ABC's "Good Morning America." An Iran-born journalist whose expertise is in international stories, and who has complained about the lack of overseas news in the American news media, would seem an unusual choice for a job that has largely been devoted to discussions of political and domestic news. That also may represent a real opportunity. "With Christiane, we have the opportunity to provide our audiences with something different on Sunday mornings," ABC News President David Westin said.

Amanpour, 52, said she was exhilarated by the challenge.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime and a unique opportunity," she said.

She had a high profile as CNN's top international correspondent in the days when there was only one cable news network, reporting from conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, the Balkans and elsewhere.

Since moving to New York three years ago to be with her husband, former U.S. State Department spokesman James Rubin, Amanpour has been seen much less frequently. She hosts a daily program for the CNN International network. Highlights of those are shown for a half hour each Sunday afternoon on CNN's domestic network.

AP

In this Nov. 11, 2009 file photo, TV journalist Christiane Amanpour attends the Focus For Change charity event in New York.

ABC has courted her for a job since back when Roone Arledge was head of the news division, more than a decade ago. She and Westin both said the time was right now. "Of all the people I know in this business, Christiane knows herself and she knows the news," said Frank Sesno, former CNN Washington bureau chief. "I think it's a very interesting and wise move for her and I think it will be a very different kind of program. George was the consummate insider, a former White House staffer turned interviewer. Christiane is the exact opposite."

She's already a non-Washington insider, who will commute to her new job from a home in New York.

That could be a risk for ABC, whose Sunday morning program has generally run a strong second to NBC's "Meet the Press," with the competition closer since the death of NBC's Tim Russert.

Amanpour downplayed the idea that "This Week" will dramatically change.

"This is something that people have come to really know and depend on," she said. "The creative DNA of the show will remain. What we want to do is broaden it even more."

Ian Cameron, executive producer of "This Week," said he looked back at tapes of the show when David Brinkley was host and found there was more news of the world discussed. The more intense domestic focus is a recent phenomenon, he said, perhaps partly in response to polls showing American news viewers with less of an interest in international news.

O'Brien is in talks with Fox for a talk show

NEW YORK (AP)—The next few months could keep Conan O'Brien very busy.

For starters, he needs to keep posting those random tweets on his recently opened Twitter account.

Then in April, he hits the road for a cross-country comedy tour that's scheduled to last two months.

O'Brien

And by mid-May, he just might be anointed by Fox as its late-night leading man, when the network's program lineup for next season is officially unveiled.

Rumors and reports that O'Brien was likely headed for Fox were almost instantly set swirling in January with his abrupt departure from NBC. Since his "Tonight Show" finale Jan. 22, O'Brien has been out of sight. But next season he could be back on the air with a new late-night show on Fox.

"They are definitely talking," said O'Brien representative Leslee Dart on Thursday, but added that Fox "is by no means the only place he's talking right now."

The logical moment to have a deal in place would be Fox's upfront presentation May 17. But that's two whole months from now and, lately, things have been moving very fast for O'Brien.

He exited NBC after just eight months as host of "The Tonight Show" when NBC proposed reinstating his predecessor, Jay Leno, to the 11:35 p.m. Eastern time slot, and pushing back O'Brien's show a half-hour.

Within three weeks, a theater tour for O'Brien was in the planning stages.

The tour was announced last week, beginning April 12 in Eugene, Ore., and concluding June 14 in Atlanta. Dubbed "The Legally Prohibited From Being Funny on Television Tour," it takes wry note of a provision of O'Brien's severance package with NBC that keeps him off the air until September. It is unclear whether a Conan show on Fox would premiere as soon as the fall, or instead debut midway through next season. It would likely air at 11 p.m. Eastern time, which would require Fox stations to relinquish a time period they typically devote to profitable syndicated fare such as "The Simpsons."

Fox spokeswoman Gaude Paez said Thursday the network had no comment about signing O'Brien beyond the words of News Corp. Chief Executive Rupert Murdoch, who in February told reporters, "We're giving it a lot of thought and a lot of examination."

But O'Brien is also entertaining other options. These include a new home on any of several cable networks, or even a syndicated show that might bring O'Brien out of late night for the first time since he started on NBC in 1993, slotting him in "early fringe" weeknights between 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Eastern time.

Producer files $30M suit against Lady Gaga in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—A songwriter and music producer who claims he helped launch pop star Lady Gaga says she squeezed him out of her lucrative career after he co-wrote some of her songs, came up with her stage name and helped get her record deal.

Rob Fusari filed a $30.5 million lawsuit against the Grammy Award-winning performer, saying his protege and former girlfriend ditched him as her career soared.

"All business is personal," said the lawsuit, filed Wednesday in a Manhattan state court.

Lady Gaga's spokesman, Dave Tomberlin, didn't immediately respond to an e-mail sent Thursday by The Associated Press.

Fusari had credits on such hits as Will Smith's "Wild, Wild West" and Destiny's Child's "Bootylicious" when a friend steered the piano-playing singer—then known by her real name, Stefani Germanotta—to him in March 2006, according to his lawsuit.

AP

In this Jan. 20, 2010 file photo, singer Lady Gaga performs in concert at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

Though he initially dismissed her, he realized she had star potential after hearing her play in his Parsippany, N.J., studio, the suit said. He spent the next several months working with her every day and "radically reshaping her approach," persuading her to drop rock riffs for dance beats, it said.

As they co-wrote songs such as "Paparazzi" and "Beautiful, Dirty, Rich," which would appear on her debut album, "The Fame," he transformed Germanotta into Lady Gaga, a name adapted from Queen's "Radio Ga Ga," the lawsuit said.

In a 2009 interview with the AP, Lady Gaga said her "realization of Gaga was five years ago, but Gaga's always been who I am." "I was Gaga from the time that I was 19 through my first record deal," the 23-year-old said of her over-the-top, avant-garde style, which has captured the imaginations of millions of fans. "I always dressed like that before people knew me as Lady Gaga. I was always that way ... I stuck out like a sore thumb."

According to the lawsuit, Lady Gaga and Fusari's relationship turned romantic and then became a business partnership in May 2006, when they created a joint venture called Team Love Child LLC to promote her career. Fusari's share was 20 percent, it said.

Man accused of stalking Ivanka Trump arrested

RENO, Nev. (AP)—A 27-year-old man accused of stalking Ivanka Trump has been arrested in Reno.

Police said Justin Massler of Reno was arrested Tuesday on a New York warrant alleging he used the Internet to stalk the daughter of Donald and Ivana Trump.

Ivanka Trump, 28, is the co-host of "Celebrity Apprentice" and a vice president at her father's real estate company.

Massler described himself in a blog posting as "a celebrity stalker who is obsessed with Ivanka Trump" and has a longing to see her. "He has been doing postings all over the Internet. (He has done) nothing physical or face to face," Reno police Lt. Mike Whan told The Associated Press.

His mother, Randee Massler of Reno, said he has a history of mental illness.

"He never harmed anyone and hasn't done anything other than write articles on the Internet," she told the Reno Gazette-Journal. "He's like a 10-year-old who has a crush on a movie star."

He remained Thursday without bail in the Washoe County Jail in Reno.

Whan said it was not immediately clear whether Massler planned to waive or fight extradition.

New York police Detective William Winning said he did not have any immediate information on the case.

NYC art dealer pleads guilty to $100M swindle

NEW YORK (AP)—A Manhattan art dealer who catered to celebrities and artists' heirs apologized Thursday for bilking about $120 million from clients to finance a once-luxurious life now unraveled into bankruptcy, illness and a struggle with drinking.

"I am deeply ashamed and sorry for my actions," Lawrence B. Salander told a judge in a husky voice after acknowledging he stole millions from tennis star John McEnroe, the estate of actor Robert De Niro's father and others.

Salander, 60, admitted swindling them for years through bogus art investment opportunities and sales of pieces he didn't own. He pleaded guilty to grand larceny and scheming to defraud, in exchange for a sentence expected to top out at a range of six to 18 years in prison.

The former Manhattan gallery owner said he sold investors shares in artworks that amounted to more than 100 percent, inflated the prices backers paid to buy in and lied about having lucrative deals lined up to resell the pieces.

Meanwhile, he said he kept sale proceeds he should have given to artists' families and others who entrusted him with pieces to sell. Sometimes he used their artworks to satisfy his own debts in a life prosecutors have said was rife with such perks as private jet travel and a 66-acre country estate. "Lawrence Salander's desire for an extravagant lifestyle turned longtime friends and trusted business colleagues into his personal piggy banks," Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. said in a statement.

MGM studio relives past as binding offers are due

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc.'s newest movie, "Hot Tub Time Machine," a main character looks around a leg-warmer-dotted ski slope and asks "Is there some kind of retro thing going on this weekend?"

There certainly is at the studio. MGM is dialing back to its past as it prepares to be sold yet again and is stressing the value of its film archive as a major asset.

Six companies made non-binding bids in January for MGM, which owns the rights to 4,100 movies and TV shows and has a stake in future James Bond and "The Hobbit" films. Now MGM is preparing to receive binding acquisition offers Friday.

It is unclear how many suitors are still in the running, but Time Warner Inc., Lions Gate Entertainment Corp. and billionaire Len Blavatnik's Access Industries are expected to make bids.

None are expected to be more than $2 billion. That would be bitter for about 140 lenders that financed the purchase of MGM for $5 billion in 2005 and now essentially control the company. Equity holders in MGM, such as Sony Corp. and Comcast Corp., have already written off their investments.

If the bids are too low, then the lenders could consider the process a "busted auction" and try to get a better return from sending MGM to bankruptcy court.

Spokesmen for Time Warner and Access Industries declined to comment. Michael Burns, Lions Gate's vice chairman, said in an interview last week that his niche movie studio was interested in MGM, but not at any price.

AP

In this Nov. 14, 2007 file photo, Nobel Prize-winning writer Toni Morrison talks during the 58th National Book Awards in New York.

Toni Morrison is among writers at NY literature event

NEW YORK (AP)—Toni Morrison, Salman Rushdie and Sherman Alexie will be among the writers featured at the sixth annual PEN World Voices Festival of International Literature in New York City.

Readings and discussions will be held from April 26 to May 2. Others expected to attend include authors Richard Price, Jonathan Lethem and Richard Ford, poet-singer Patti Smith and singer Natalie Merchant.

Represented countries will include South Africa, Pakistan, Australia and Ireland.

Girlfriend balks at dinner with both sets of parents

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I've been dating "Amanda" for eight months and everything is going great. I've met her parents, and she has met mine.

Two days ago, I mentioned that we should plan a dinner with both sets of parents since they have not met yet. Amanda told me that our parents shouldn't meet until we move in together or are engaged. I felt offended. When do you think is the right time for our parents to meet?

IT'S ONLY DINNER!

DEAR ONLY DINNER: I disagree with your girlfriend. There are no hard and fast rules these days about when the parents of couples should meet. And after eight months, I would think both sets of parents would be interested in meeting each other.

DEAR ABBY: I have a close friend, "Darlene," whom I have known for 30 years. She has never once in all that time invited me into her home.

Darlene never has anyone inside except for immediate family. If you go there to take her something, she greets you outside if she knows you're coming. If she doesn't, she won't answer the door.

She goes to other people's homes but never reciprocates. In groups that go from house to house, she will not take her turn. Even when her mother-in-law died she wouldn't receive people in her home.

I find Darlene's behavior insulting. It has become a frequent topic of conversation. I don't know what her home life was growing up, but her husband's family had an open-door policy in their home. Please advise me why someone would never welcome anyone into her home.

SHUT OUT IN CHARLOTTESVILLE

DEAR SHUT OUT: Darlene may be ashamed of the way her house looks inside, or she may be a hoarder. If you really need an explanation, you should be asking her. In light of your 30-year friendship, please stop personalizing this because it appears her hang-up is long-standing and deep-seated. And to gossip about it behind her back seems cruel and won't help the situation.

DEAR ABBY: I try to be positive and considerate of others. I believe if you smile at the world, it will smile back. The exception to that is my mother. Mom is the most negative person I have ever met. Nothing has ever been good enough for her—and now my sister is starting to behave just like her. If misery loves company, they can have each other.

My kids dislike being around their grandmother and can see how upset she makes me when we talk on the phone. Abby, I'd like my mom to see her grandkids grow up, and much as I don't want to admit it, I need her support and guidance. How can I get Mom to see the brighter side of things?

UPBEAT IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR UPBEAT: Forgive me if this seems negative, but you can't change other people—only the way you react to them. You might be able to deflect some of the unpleasantness your mother creates if, instead of letting her upset you when she says something negative, you respond with something positive.

Because your children don't like to be around her, limit their exposure if she's being toxic. And do not allow her to minimize their accomplishments or make them feel "less than," because they may begin to believe it.

As to needing your mother's support and guidance, I sympathize with your wish, but please understand that she may not be able to give you what you're looking for. And, if that's the case, you may need to find support and guidance elsewhere.

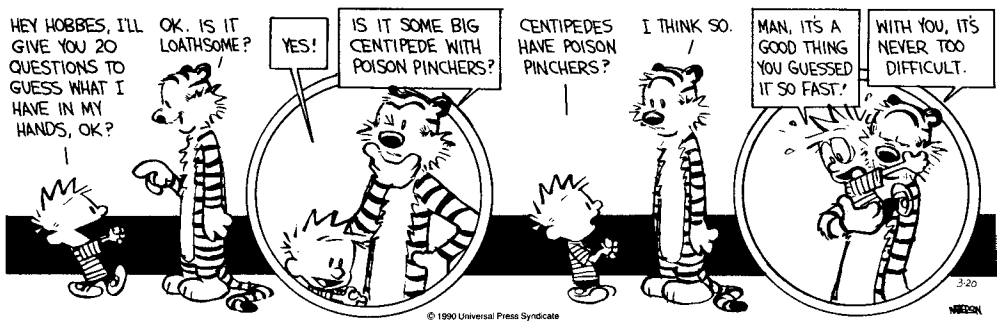
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HEY HOBBES, I'LL GIVE YOU 20 QUESTIONS TO GUESS WHAT I HAVE IN MY HANDS, OK?
OK. IS IT LOATHSOME?
YES!
IS IT SOME BIG CENTIPEDE WITH POISON PINCHERS?
CENTIPEDES HAVE POISON PINCHERS?
I THINK SO.
MAN, IT'S A GOOD THING YOU GUESSED IT SO FAST.
WITH YOU, IT'S NEVER TOO DIFFICULT.
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

IS MY DONUT GOOD, GARFIELD?
ENJOYING MY DONUT, ARE YOU?
LOOK...
AN UNGUARDED DONUT IS MY DONUT
JIM DAVIS 3-20
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www.garfield.com
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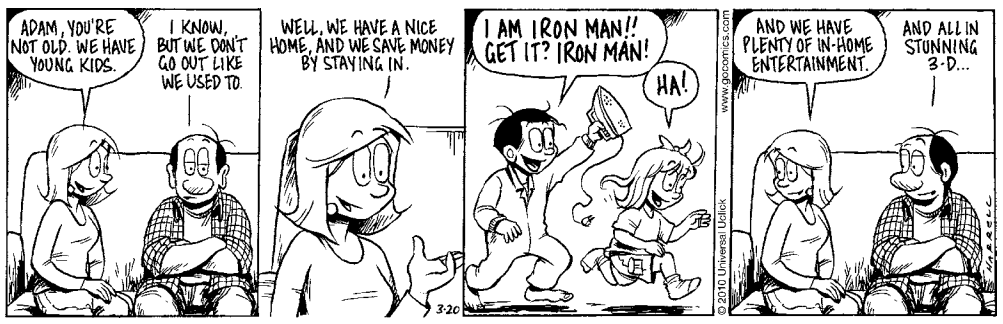
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ADAM, YOU'RE NOT OLD. WE HAVE YOUNG KIDS.
I KNOW, BUT WE DON'T GO OUT LIKE WE USED TO.
WELL, WE HAVE A NICE HOME, AND WE SAVE MONEY BY STAYING IN.
I AM IRON MAN!! GET IT? IRON MAN!
HA!
AND WE HAVE PLENTY OF IN-HOME ENTERTAINMENT.
AND ALL IN STUNNING 3-D...
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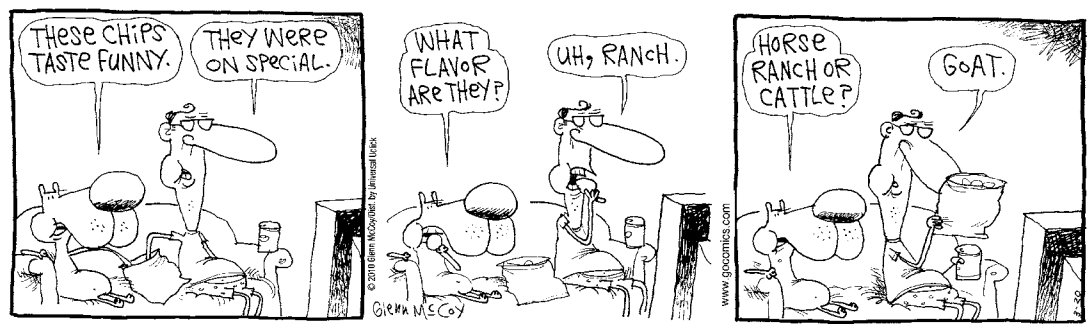
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Lend a hand
4 Snowbank maker
8 Celeb
12 Morning cup
13 Tibetan monk
14 Subside
15 It does the hole job
16 Fertility goddess
17 Dermatology case
18 Complains vehemently
21 Expert
22 Hoover, for one
23 Storedoor data
26 Roscoe
27 Carte lead-in
30 Relaxed
31 Remuneration
32 Pitt or Garrett
33 Grand —, Nova Scotia
34 Pudding fruit
35 Band
36 Trot
37 "Nuff" preceder
38 Deals a crushing blow
45 Met melody
46 "South Park" character
47 Mimic
48 Flowerless plant
49 Enrages
50 "2001" computer
51 Adversaries
52 Scruff
53 Last (Abbr.)

DOWN
1 Open somewhat
2 Hawk-eyes' home
3 Sandwich shop
4 Electrician's tool
5 Cow catcher
6 Skip
7 Time to do the laundry
8 Honey bunch?
9 Mexican entree
10 Part of A.D.
11 Coral construct
19 Nimble
20 Nosh
23 With it, once
24 Rowing need
25 Handle
26 Throttle
27 Branch
28 Retriever, for short
29 Commotion
31 Football
32 Nitwit
34 In favor of
35 Smile when you say that
36 Unisex garb
37 Drag (Var.)
38 Guffaw, in "Variety"
39 Twistable treat
40 Telegram
41 Banks on the runway
42 Hawaiian island
43 Milky gem
44 Dissolve

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	B	E	■	B	O	O	■	R	E	P	E	L
C	A	R	■	A	R	P	■	I	M	A	G	O
E	Y	E	■	S	W	E	E	T	S	P	O	T
R	O	C	■	H	E	R	T	Z	■	■	■	■
B	U	T	T	■	L	A	C	■	G	E	T	S
■	■	■	A	W	L	■	H	U	R	R	A	H
A	L	A	M	O	■	■	■	F	O	A	M	Y
C	O	S	M	O	S	■	Z	O	O	■	■	■
E	S	P	Y	■	A	R	I	■	M	U	F	F
■	■	■	■	A	G	E	N	T	■	K	E	A
S	O	U	R	D	O	U	G	H	■	A	L	L
O	O	Z	E	D	■	S	E	A	■	S	O	S
W	H	I	G	S	■	E	R	R	■	E	N	E

Yesterday's answer 3-20

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			■	16				■	17			
18			19					20				
■	■	■	21			■	22			■	■	■
23	24	25			■	26			■	27	28	29
30				■	31			■	32			
33			■	34			■	35				
■	■	■	36			■	37			■	■	■
38	39	40				41				42	43	44
45				■	46				■	47		
48				■	49				■	50		
51				■	52				■	53		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Christy Carlson Romano, 26; Chester Bennington, 34; Holly Hunter, 48; Spike Lee, 53

Happy Birthday: Take care of any problems with settlements, contracts or financial agreements and you will be well-positioned for some good opportunities the last quarter of the year. It will be a waste of time and energy to try to push others. Focus on how you can use your own steam to get what you want. Realize that you have much to offer on your own. Your numbers are 6, 14, 17, 20, 29, 33, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't lose sight of your goals. Speak from the heart. An old friend will be able to shine some light on a personal situation you are experiencing. Gather all the facts and when you see an opportunity, take it. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): It's time to take care of your responsibilities. You can expect to face deception when dealing with people who want your help or the people you are asking for favors. Do your own fact-finding. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You have to be precise and honest if you don't want to be taken out of context. Expect disappointments from people who have made promises. It's time to make modifications to the way you have been living your life. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Help others but don't get taken for granted. There's a fine line between what needs to be done and what doesn't. You may feel the need to keep a secret if you don't want someone to take what you are doing the wrong way. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Friends and colleagues will recognize the improvements you make. You will learn a lot by participating in community events and can impress the people you encounter with your knowledge and your views. Emotional dealings with friends and relatives will slow you down. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Make changes that are not expected. The more you can learn about a job you want done, the easier it will be to handle partners and contractors. Don't give in to anyone trying to push you in a direction you don't want to go. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't put up with emotional games. If someone is not pulling his or her weight, take action. You will have the opportunity to make improvements to a relationship that means a lot to you as long as you communicate instead of procrastinate. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Check out a possible move. Larger quarters or renovating your home to suit your needs will lift your spirits and revitalize some of the goals you set aside. A partnership will fall into place. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Do something constructive to make your home environment better. Listen to any complaints being made and correct whatever isn't working. Neglecting problems will lead to a sudden change you didn't foresee. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Get together with relatives you don't often see. Revisit the goals you've always wanted to aspire to but didn't—and go for it. Sharing your thoughts and plans for the future will give you the help and support you need. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Read the fine print. It will be difficult to deal with your emotions if you allow someone to take advantage of you. Say no to temptation and plans that put you at a disadvantage. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Keep everyone guessing and you'll control what's going on emotionally and personally in your life. Look back at the way things unfolded in the past and you will have a good idea how to handle the same people now. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are quick to make decisions and follow through. You are outgoing, outspoken and unpredictable. You only share your emotions with people you trust.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1				2		4		3
			8		7			
						8		1
	5						6	
2				4				5
	7						1	
7		6						
			6		9			
4		1		5				9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	8	1	4	2	9	7	3	5
7	9	3	5	1	6	8	2	4
5	4	2	3	8	7	1	9	6
9	3	7	1	6	4	2	5	8
4	6	5	8	3	2	9	1	7
1	2	8	7	9	5	4	6	3
2	7	4	9	5	3	6	8	1
8	5	6	2	7	1	3	4	9
3	1	9	6	4	8	5	7	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/19

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

INDONESIA'S RING OF FIRE **Solution: 7 letters**

W	M	I	Y	T	U	A	E	B	R	O	C	K	S	T
C	O	A	S	T	L	U	A	F	C	I	T	O	X	E
S	N	R	G	L	R	L	B	E	M	T	R	E	L	A
E	U	O	S	M	A	L	A	S	T	C	E	T	E	D
B	D	L	I	H	A	N	I	N	H	Y	T	E	H	E
S	S	U	F	S	I	E	D	N	G	S	S	E	M	P
E	C	E	T	U	S	P	C	O	E	I	A	F	S	T
L	I	I	K	I	R	I	L	R	W	T	S	I	I	H
I	S	A	N	I	N	O	M	A	A	O	I	S	M	R
T	Y	V	R	A	R	G	U	E	T	T	D	S	A	E
A	H	A	C	O	P	T	A	S	E	E	E	U	N	M
L	P	L	E	V	E	L	S	M	R	S	S	R	U	M
O	O	T	N	E	M	N	O	R	I	V	N	E	S	I
V	E	X	P	L	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	S	T	H
M	G	N	I	R	E	G	G	I	R	T	F	I	H	S

© 2010 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 3/20

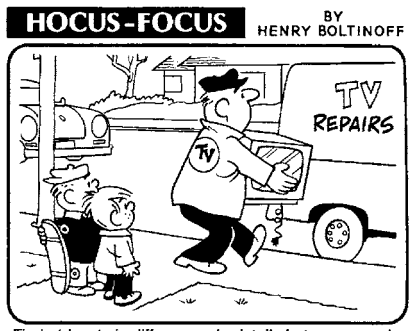
Alert, Ash, Beauty, Blast, Burst, Coast, Craters, Depth, Detect, Disaster, Emission, Environment, Exotic, Exploration, Fault, Fissures, Geophysics, Gods, Heat, Island, Lava, Levels, Line, Magma, Magnitude, Meteorology, Ocean, Panic, Plates, Rocks, Seismic, Shift, Shimmer, Signal, Strike, Sulfurous, Triggering, Tsunamis, Volatile, Volcanic, Water, Worship

Yesterday's Answer: Massive

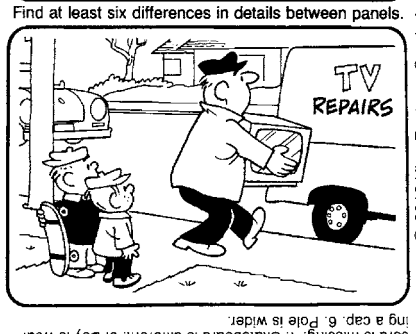
Treasury 8 can be ordered by sending check or money order for $16.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Jacket has no logo. 2. Tire is black. 3. TV cord is missing. 4. Skateboard is different. 5. Boy is wearing a cap. 6. Pole is wider.

Wishing Well®

3	2	3	8	5	6	5	6	3	7	4	3	6
Y	S	O	A	A	L	N	I	U	R	A	W	F
7	4	2	3	8	7	5	7	8	7	8	5	8
E	C	T	I	N	S	E	O	A	U	L	W	Y
6	4	7	6	2	4	7	6	5	6	4	8	7
E	H	R	I	A	A	C	S	L	E	N	Z	E
4	7	8	5	4	7	3	2	6	7	5	3	7
G	F	E	I	E	U	L	Y	N	L	F	L	N
4	6	5	8	2	3	5	2	6	2	4	3	7
O	R	E	E	T	G	B	R	I	U	F	O	E
3	6	4	6	7	6	4	3	8	4	8	4	3
F	C	H	H	S	E	O	A	M	M	O	E	R
5	2	7	6	5	8	5	8	5	8	5	8	8
E	E	S	D	G	T	I	I	N	O	S	N	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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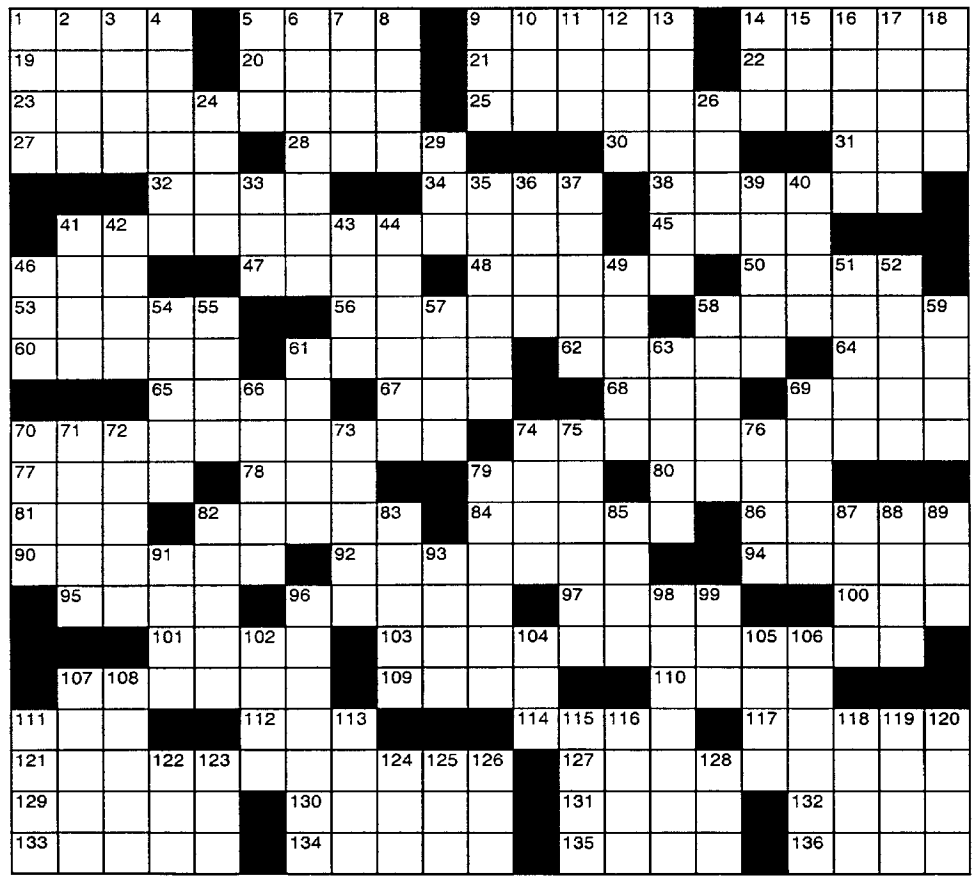
Super Crossword

FIRST BORN

ACROSS
1 Like some cellars
5 Fossey's friends
9 — acid
14 Actress Witherspoon
19 Gulf ruler
20 Computer command
21 Word with coffee or linen
22 Intense
23 Writer born 1/1/1879
25 Bandleader born 1/1/1900
27 Soprano Anna
28 Facts, for short
30 Diocese
31 Flagon filler
32 Vacation location
34 Cease
38 Join the leisure class?
41 General born 1/1/1745
45 Adored one
46 Paid player
47 Athenian arcade
48 Musical movement
50 Madison's st.
53 Wrong
56 Splitting headache?
58 Donkey's declaration
60 Flapjack sauce
61 Tacitus' tongue
62 Glue guy
64 Eggs
65 Fancy fabric
67 Nationality suffix
68 Boathouse item
69 Secular
70 Patriot born 1/1/1735
74 Comic born 1/1/1943
77 TV's "— McBeal"
78 — Tin Tin
79 Welcome item?
80 Norse deity
81 Deteriorate
82 More delicate
84 Singer John
86 Marking post
90 Henson amphibian
92 Deceive
94 Riyadh resident
95 "I Am . . . I —" ('71 song)
96 Japanese city
97 Amazes
100 Smith or Stout
101 A swan was her swain
103 G-man born 1/1/1895
107 "Petrouchka," for one
109 Novelist Seton
110 Memo start
111 Fumble
112 Supporter
114 Nice or Newark
117 Abate
121 Actor born 1/1/1909
127 Seamstress born 1/1/1752
129 Butter-cream, e.g.
130 Northern hemisphere?
131 — podrida
132 Ages
133 "Lovergirl" singer Marie
134 Like the Taj Mahal
135 Viewed
136 Skillful

DOWN
1 Judge
2 Snowballs, sometimes
3 Irritate
4 Make a bundle
5 Palm Sunday beast
6 Exam subject?
7 Like Steven?
8 Medieval menial
9 Rig a race
10 "— pro nobis"
11 Ullmann or Tyler
12 Horus' mother
13 "Ta-ta!"
14 — room
15 It's found in the Seine
16 Actress Samantha
17 Panther Bobby
18 Ziegfeld Follies designer
24 — Hashanah
26 Stalk
29 Actress Massen
33 — Alamos, NM
35 Power or Guthrie
36 — about (approximately)
37 Carnaby Street currency
39 London landmark
40 Nastase of tennis
41 Bunch of battalions
42 Film —
43 Jedi instructor
44 Restaurant employee
46 — de deux
49 Actor Alain
51 Shallow area
52 Find fault
54 Tarnish
55 Practice punching
57 Workbench attachment
58 "Salome" character
59 Texas city
61 "The Stepford Wives" author
63 Massenet opera
66 Earn
69 "The Threepenny Opera" star
70 Transmission setting
71 Fugard's "A Lesson from —"
72 Marine leader?
73 Foe
74 Buttermilk's mistress
75 Canada's capital
76 Bigwigs
79 Tune
82 — Castro
83 Sangria wine
85 Scent
87 Entice
88 Central European river
89 Veto
91 Grain grinder
93 British gun
96 Kind of grasshopper
98 Carve
99 Every guy is one
102 College hotshot
104 Cumberland —
105 French airport
106 Swerved
107 Clamp
108 Football's Herber
111 Touch up the text
113 Therefore
115 Bassoon relative
116 Depend (on)
118 Made tracks
119 Lofty initials?
120 Classroom sound
122 Jillian or Sothern
123 Khan opener?
124 New Haven hardwood
125 "— is me!"
126 Turf
128 Crestfallen



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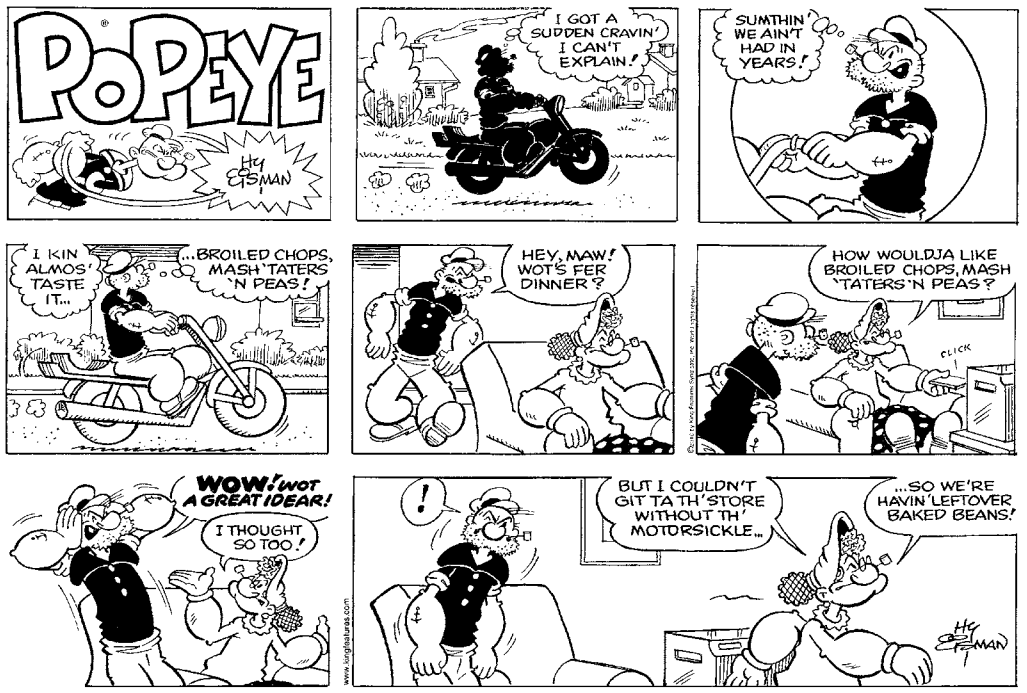
POPEYE
Hey CISMAN
I GOT A SUDDEN CRAVIN' I CAN'T EXPLAIN!
SUMTHIN WE AIN'T HAD IN YEARS!
I KIN ALMOS' TASTE IT...
...BROILED CHOPS, MASH 'TATERS 'N PEAS!
HEY, MAW! WOT'S FER DINNER?
HOW WOULDJA LIKE BROILED CHOPS, MASH 'TATERS 'N PEAS?
CLICK
WOW! WOT A GREAT IDEAR!
I THOUGHT SO TOO!
BUT I COULDN'T GIT TA TH' STORE WITHOUT TH' MOTORSICKLE...
...SO WE'RE HAVIN' LEFTOVER BAKED BEANS!
!
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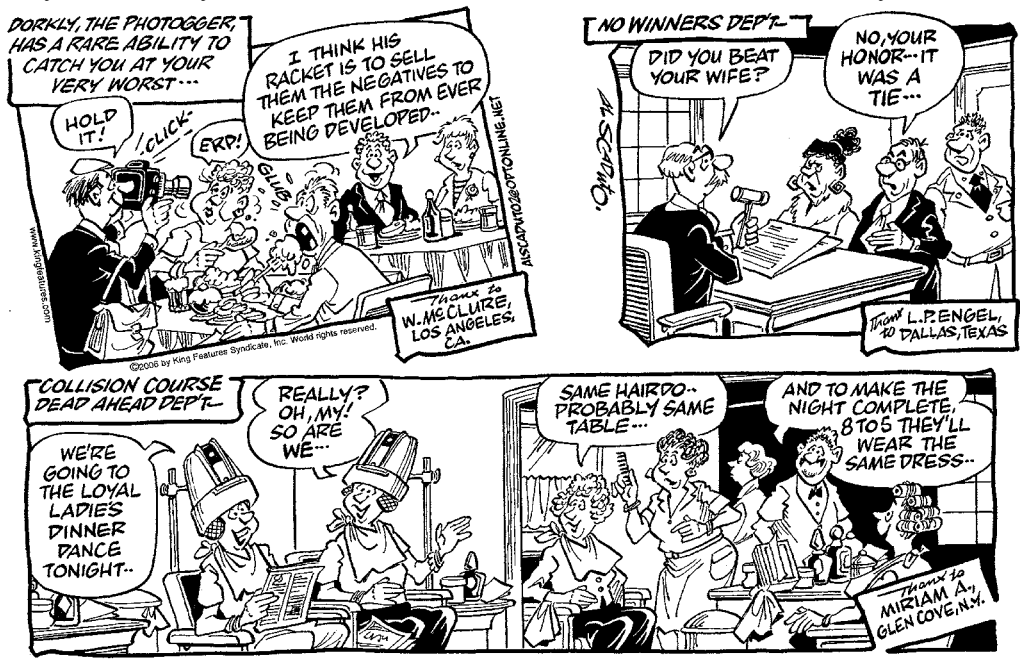
They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto


DORKLY, THE PHOTOGGER, HAS A RARE ABILITY TO CATCH YOU AT YOUR VERY WORST···
HOLD IT!
CLICK-
ERP!
I THINK HIS RACKET IS TO SELL THEM THE NEGATIVES TO KEEP THEM FROM EVER BEING DEVELOPED··
GLUG
Thanx to W. McCLURE, LOS ANGELES, CA.
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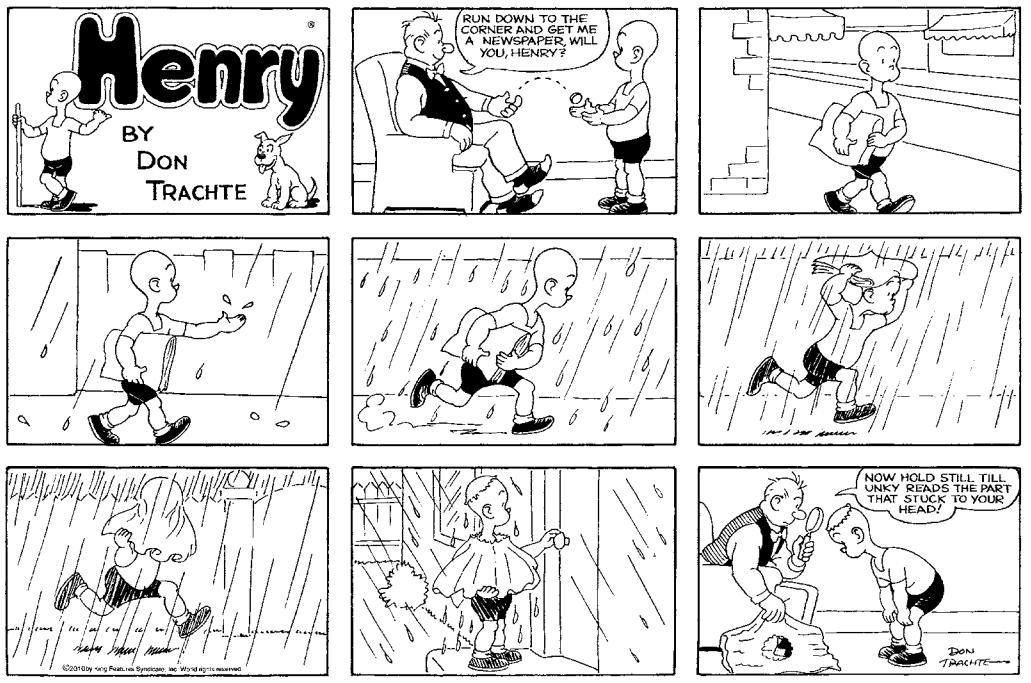
www.kingfeatures.com
NO WINNERS DEPT.—
DID YOU BEAT YOUR WIFE?
NO, YOUR HONOR··IT WAS A TIE···
Thanx L.P.ENGEL, TO DALLAS, TEXAS
COLLISION COURSE DEAD AHEAD DEPT.—
WE'RE GOING TO THE LOYAL LADIES DINNER DANCE TONIGHT··
REALLY? OH, MY! SO ARE WE···
SAME HAIRDO·· PROBABLY SAME TABLE···
AND TO MAKE THE NIGHT COMPLETE, 8 TO 5 THEY'LL WEAR THE SAME DRESS··
Thanx to MIRIAM A., GLEN COVE, N.Y.


Henry
BY DON TRACHTE
RUN DOWN TO THE CORNER AND GET ME A NEWSPAPER, WILL YOU, HENRY?
NOW HOLD STILL TILL UNKY READS THE PART THAT STUCK TO YOUR HEAD!
DON TRACHTE
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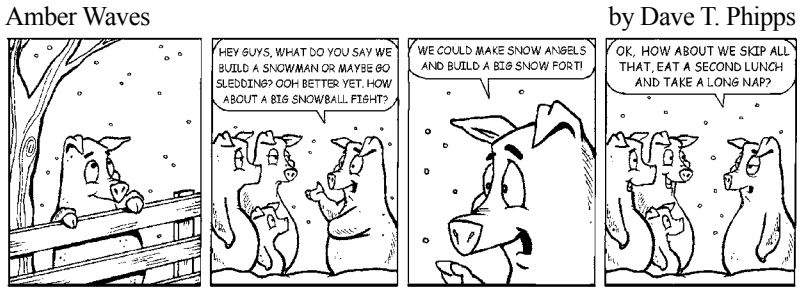
Trivia test

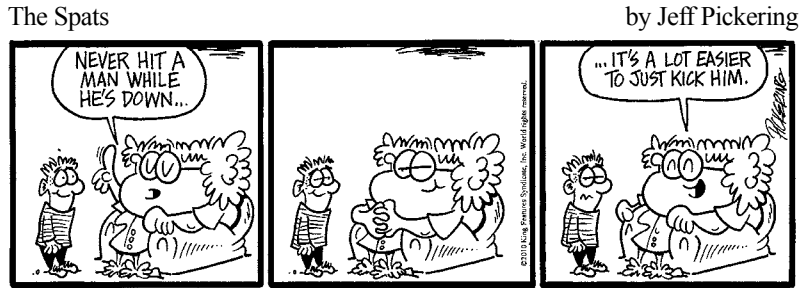
by Fifi Rodriguez

1. LITERATURE: Who wrote the children's book "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing"?
2. MOVIES: Who played the lead roles in "The Silence of the Lambs"?
3. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What kind of bird is the fast-moving road runner?
4. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What occupation is traditionally associated with leprechauns?
5. MUSIC: Who wrote the song "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds"?
6. MEDICAL: What is the modern-day equivalent of the ailment once described as "grippe"?
7. GEOGRAPHY: The country of Wales was known in Roman times by what name?
8. CHEMISTRY: What is the Periodic Table symbol for the element iron?
9. ANCIENT WORLD: What figure is depicted by the Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the World?
10. GAMES: Which two letters of the alphabet have the highest values in the game of Scrabble?

Amber Waves — by Dave T. Phipps


HEY GUYS, WHAT DO YOU SAY WE BUILD A SNOWMAN OR MAYBE GO SLEDDING? OOH BETTER YET. HOW ABOUT A BIG SNOWBALL FIGHT?
WE COULD MAKE SNOW ANGELS AND BUILD A BIG SNOW FORT!
OK, HOW ABOUT WE SKIP ALL THAT, EAT A SECOND LUNCH AND TAKE A LONG NAP?

The Spats — by Jeff Pickering



Answers

1. Judy Blume
2. Jodie Foster and Anthony Hopkins
3. Cuckoo
4. Shoe-making or cobblers
5. Credited to John Lennon and Paul McCartney
6. Influenza
7. Cambria
8. Fe
9. The Greek sun god Helios
10. Q and Z, 10 points apiece

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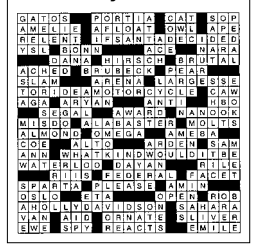
Saturday's Answers



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- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

scuttle

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Ohio stuns Georgetown in tournament opener

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—The MAC champion Ohio Bobcats, who had a losing record in conference play, have found their way in March and now boast an NCAA tournament win for the first time in 27 years.

Armon Bassett scored 32 points to lead the 14th-seeded Bobcats to a convincing 97-83 win over No. 3 seed Georgetown in the Midwest Regional.

In early March, no one expected Ohio (22-14) to be in this position. The team had just finished a 7-9 season in Mid-American Conference play and entered the conference tournament as the ninth seed.

Four wins later, Ohio was in the 65-team field. Forty minutes later, the Bobcats are in the second round.

Ohio seized the lead early on its 3-point shooting and never had a serious letdown the rest of the way. The heavily favored Hoyas (23-11) made a small run in the second half that cut a 19-point lead down to seven, but they couldn't overcome the Bobcats.

Chris Wright led the Hoyas with 28 points.

No. 6 Tennessee 62, No. 11 San Diego State 59

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Melvin Goins made his fourth 3-pointer with 19 seconds left after San Diego State cut the deficit to one, and Tennessee held off the Aztecs to advance to the second round of the NCAA tournament's Midwest Regional.

The sixth-seeded Volunteers (26-8) will play Saturday against No. 14 seed Ohio. A victory would put Tennessee in the round of 16 for the third time in four years.

Goins and J.P. Prince scored 15 points apiece for Tennessee on coach Bruce Pearl's 50th birthday.

D.J. Gay had 16 points for No. 11 seed San Diego State (25-9). Kawhi Leonard scored 12 with 10 rebounds, but he missed a well-guarded 3-pointer at the buzzer that would have tied it.

The Aztecs, who won the Mountain West Conference, have never won an NCAA tournament game.

No. 1 Kansas 90, No. 16 Lehigh 74

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Top-seeded Kansas pulled away from scrappy Lehigh in the second half, avoiding a monumental upset in the Midwest Regional.

Marcus Morris had 26 points and Sherron Collins added 18 as Kansas (33-2) fell into its season-long pattern of playing in spurts, giving No. 16 seed Lehigh (22-11) hope of making college basketball history.

The Jayhawks led by just six in the first half and didn't pull away until midway through the second to keep from becoming the biggest team to be bounced from the bracket on a wild opening day of the NCAA tournament.

Tyrel Reed added four big 3-pointers for Kansas as it moves on to face gritty Northern Iowa in a second-round game that suddenly seems much more daunting.

No. 9 Northern Iowa 69, No. 8 UNLV 66

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Ali Farokhmanesh hit a 3-pointer from the left wing with 4.9 seconds left to lift ninth-seeded Northern Iowa over No. 8 seed UNLV.

Farokhmanesh found himself open after Kwadzo Ahelegbe had chewed up the majority of the clock following Oscar Bellfield's tying 3-pointer for UNLV with 35 seconds remaining. Johnny Moran reversed the ball to Farokhmanesh, who drained the jumper with the shot clock running down.

The Runnin' Rebels (25-9) got one last chance to tie it, but Tre'Von Willis didn't get his 3-pointer off before the final buzzer and it was off-target anyway.

WEST REGIONAL

No. 13 Murray St. 66, No. 4 Vanderbilt 65

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—Danero Thomas hit a 15-footer as the buzzer sounded and 13th-seeded Murray State stunned No. 4 seed Vanderbilt.

President Barack Obama must have been onto something picking the revved-up Racers (31-4) to get past the first round in the West Regional. It was the school's first victory in the NCAA tournament in 24 years, and Murray State will play Butler in the second round.

For the second time in as many NCAA appearances, Vanderbilt (24-9) bowed out early as the higher seed. The Commodores were a first-round upset victim of Siena in 2008 when seeded fourth.

Jermaine Beal made two free throws with 12.7 seconds left to give Vandy the lead. B.J. Jenkins missed a rushed 3-pointer on the other end, but the ball went out of bounds off a Vanderbilt player with 4.2 seconds left, giving Murray State the final shot.

No. 5 Butler 77, No. 12 UTEP 59

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP—Shelvin Mack hit a career-high seven 3-pointers and scored 18 of his 25 points after halftime to lead the fifth-seeded Bulldogs.

Gordon Hayward scored 13 points and Matt Howard added 11 as Butler (29-4) won its 21st straight game to extend the sport's longest active winning streak.

Derrick Caracter had 20 points for UTEP (26-7), which won 16 straight games and a league title before a tournament loss to Houston last Saturday. Randy Culpepper added 16 points, but the Miners' defense couldn't stop the patient outside shooting of the Bulldogs.

No. 7 BYU 99, No. 10 Florida 92, 2OT

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Jimmer Fredette scored 37 points, including two 3-pointers in double overtime, to seal the Cougars' thrilling win over 10th-seeded Florida.

Fredette made a 3 from the top of the key to put the seventh-seeded Cougars (30-5) ahead 90-83 with 2:42 left, then added another with just over a minute remaining to put the game away.

Michael Loyd Jr. added a career-high 26 points for BYU.

Kenny Boynton scored 27 points for the Gators (21-13), who rallied from a 13-point deficit in their first NCAA tournament game since winning back-to-back titles in 2006 and 2007.

No. 2 Kansas State 82, No. 15 North Texas 62

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Denis Clemente had 17 points and six assists, and the second-seeded Wildcats had a 46-21 advantage inside to avoid becoming an opening-day upset victim.

Kansas State (27-7) gathered itself after a shaky start, riding its defense into the second round for the second time in three years. The Wildcats held the Mean Green (24-9) to 31 percent shooting and stymied Josh White to only three points.

Jacob Pullen and Curtis Kelly added 15 points each for Kansas State, which will play BYU next.

SOUTH REGIONAL

No. 2 Villanova 73, No. 15 Robert Morris 70, OT

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Scottie Reynolds responded to his benching with a clutch performance at the foul line in the final minutes of regulation to help the Wildcats survive a serious scare after trailing most of the way.

AP

Ohio's DeVaughn Washington (1) celebrates a dunk over Georgetown's Julian Vaughn (22) during the second half of an NCAA first-round college basketball game in Providence, R.I., Thursday, March 18, 2010.

Coach Jay Wright sat Reynolds at the start of the game to make a "teaching point," and he missed 13 of 15 shots from the floor for Villanova (25-7). But the senior star made seven of eight free throws in the final 3:06 to send the game into overtime, finishing with 20 points.

Karon Abraham scored 23 for Robert Morris (23-13), which had a shot at the buzzer to tie the game in overtime that was no good.

No. 10 Saint Mary's 80, No. 7 Richmond 71

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Omar Samhan had 29 points and 12 rebounds despite spending most of the game in foul trouble, and Saint Mary's pulled away to win an NCAA tournament game for the first time in six tries since 1959.

The 10th-seeded Gaels (27-5) will play Saturday against Villanova in the second round.

Mickey McConnell, the West Coast Conference tournament MVP, scored 23 points for the Gaels, who had a 40-18 rebounding edge and 21-4 advantage in second-chance points.

David Gonzalvez scored 18 and Kevin Anderson had 16 for Richmond (26-9).

No. 11 Old Dominion 51, No. 6 Notre Dame 50

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Carleton Scott's 3-pointer rattled out in the closing seconds, and 11th-seeded Old Dominion stunned the Irish and star Luke Harangody.

The Fighting Irish rushed the ball up the court as the clock wound down, but Scott's attempt to tie the game didn't fall and Harangody's putback at the buzzer wasn't enough.

Frank Hassell scored 15 to lead Old Dominion (27-8), which held Harangody to four points—and scoreless until the final minute. The Monarchs will play Baylor in the second round.

Ben Hansbrough scored 17 points to lead the Irish (23-12).

No. 3 Baylor 68, No. 14 Sam Houston State 59

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Ekpe Udoh had 20 points and 13 rebounds, and Lace-Darius Dunn scored 13 to help the third-seeded Bears win an NCAA tournament game for the first time in 60 years.

Udoh also had five assists, two blocks and two steals for Baylor (26-7), which broke open a close game down the stretch. It's the school's first tournament win since beating BYU in 1950.

Gilberto Clavell had 23 points and Preston Brown added 13 for 14th-seeded Sam Houston State (25-8), which tied it at 55 on a short floater by Ashton Mitchell with 3:48 to go.

The game remained tied until Quincy Acy dunked to put Baylor ahead for good with 2:30 left.

EAST REGIONAL

No. 1 Kentucky 100, No. 16 ETSU 71

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Eric Bledsoe's eight 3-pointers set a Kentucky record for an NCAA tournament game, and the top-seeded Wildcats dominated throughout in a victory over East Tennessee State.

Scoring 29 points in all, Bledsoe started 8 of 8 on 3s before finally missing his first from long range late in the second half and finishing 8 of 9. Still, he surpassed Tony Delk's previous school record of seven 3s in the 1996 championship game against Syracuse.

Patrick Patterson scored 22 points on 9-of-10 shooting, including a handful of dunks, while John Wall added 17 points and 11 assists for the Wildcats (33-2).

No. 9 Wake Forest 81, No. 8 Texas 80, OT

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Ishmael Smith's pull-up jumper from about 17 feet out with 1.3 seconds remaining in overtime gave ninth-seeded Wake Forest a win over eighth-seeded Texas.

Texas twice rallied from double-digit deficits, then blew an eight-point lead in overtime, completing a puzzling slide after being ranked No. 1 in the country in January.

It was the third game that went to overtime on a wild first day of NCAA action. Last year, two games went to OT in the entire tournament.

The Demon Deacons (20-10) rallied from a 76-68 deficit in the extra session. They still trailed by four in the final minute, but a 3-pointer by Ari Stewart with 15.9 seconds left made it 80-79.

Gary Johnson then missed two free throws for Texas, giving Smith one more chance.

No. 11 Washington 80, No. 6 Marquette 78

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—Quincy Pondexter drove for a tiebreaking bank shot with 1.7 seconds left, and 11th-seeded Washington extended its remarkable late-season run into the NCAA tournament with a victory over Marquette.

Pondexter scored 18 points and Isaiah Thomas 19 as the Huskies (25-9) won their eighth straight game in dramatic fashion, rallying from a 15-point deficit with 13 1/2 minutes left.

Lazar Hayward missed a half-court heave at the buzzer for the sixth-seeded Golden Eagles (23-11), who didn't make a field goal in the final 4:33.

Marquette's loss completed an ugly 1-3 opening day for the mighty Big East, which put eight teams in the NCAA tournament, most of any conference.

No. 3 New Mexico 62, No. 14 Montana 57

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—Roman Martinez had 19 points, six rebounds and four assists, and third-seeded New Mexico overcame a shaky start to beat 14th-seeded Montana.

Darington Hobson added 11 points, 11 rebounds and six assists while playing with a sprained left wrist for the Lobos (30-4), who used a 17-0 run after halftime to briefly break open the game after trailing by a point at the break.

Dairese Gary converted seven free throws over the final 3:36 as New Mexico staved off an upset to continue a special season that began with being picked to finish fifth in the Mountain West Conference.

Willis takes early lead in Tampa

PALM HARBOR, Fla. (AP)—Padraig Harrington didn't have the best score at Innisbrook, just one of the biggest smiles.

He finished his opening round Thursday at the Transitions Championship by holing out a bunker shot for birdie on the 18th hole, then happily shared memories of his first trip to the White House and a St. Patrick's Day celebration with President Barack Obama.

Garrett Willis, who only learned two weeks ago that he received an exemption to his hometown event, made five birdies on the back for a 6-under 65 and a two-shot lead over defending champion Retief Goosen and five others.

Harrington had to settle for a 69 in his first trip to Innisbrook.

It was the day before—a whirlwind trip to Washington for his favorite holiday—that kept him so upbeat. He explored various rooms in the White House, then went to a gala hosted by Obama and Ireland's prime minister.

The only regret? Not taking the opportunity to greet Obama.

"When it finished off, people obviously were going up to say 'Hello,' and I sort of stayed back," Harrington said. "I missed the opportunity, but it will happen again. And the end of the day, it was just nice to be there. I was close enough, let's say."

If the White House was a new experience, so was the Copperhead Course at Innisbrook, with a strong reputation that grows each year. Harrington had never played the Transitions Championship, and while he had a practice round earlier in the week, his lack of knowledge showed at times.

On the par-3 17th, which played 224 yards into a cold wind, Harrington figured he could attack with a 5-wood only to realize there was a spine in the back of the green that made for a tough chip and led to a bogey.

"You don't have to do very much wrong to drop a shot," Harrington said.

That wasn't a problem for Willis, who knows this course well from living about 40 miles up the highway. His trouble was getting into the tournament. Willis figured that he would be a lock for this event, but the field is stronger than ever—14 of the top 25 in the world—and he needed a late sponsor exemption to get a tee time.

His round turned after getting into trouble on the 10th, where he drove into the trees and then went over the green. Instead of another bogey, he chipped in for birdie, the first of three in a row.

"Next thing you know, it just birdie after birdie," Willis said, who picked them up on the par 5s, and with a pair of 15-foot putts.

Another surprise came from Jeff Maggert.

Maggert was the seventh alternate at one point, and he was home in Houston on Wednesday clearing out dead palm trees from his yard when he caught the last flight to Tampa. Maggert arrived at Innisbrook to learn Vijay Singh had withdrawn because of a back injury, then shot a 4-under 67 to join Goosen, Jim Furyk, Carl Pettersson, Jonathan Byrd and PGA Tour rookie Rickie Fowler.

Maggert's only problem was soreness from doing so much yard work, that a sloppy bogey on the par-5 11th hole.

"I enjoy the golf course," Maggert said. "I wish I didn't have to wait until the last minute to get in, but it just worked out."

Goosen already is a two-time winner at Innisbrook—once in the autumn, once in the spring—and continues to rely on a belly putter and a cross-handed grip. It seems to be working, and he made enough for a strong start to his title defense.

Pettersson also is a past champion, and like so many other players, some of his pars were what kept the round going. The wind kicked up not long after Willis finished in the morning, and picking up birdies became a chore.

That's what irritated Furyk so much when he failed to convert a routine up-and-down for birdie on the par-5 opening hole.

"I was kind of kicking myself, because I knew it was going to be a tough day," Furyk said. "Then I went on a tear and birdied some really hard holes. It was nice to get off to a good start. The greens are quite quick, and these greens have a lot of undulation. When the wind is blowing, it's just a tough day to score."

It didn't help to play in such cool temperatures, unexpected this time of the year in Florida.

"It was warmer in Washington than it is here," Harrington said.

Garrett Willis grits his teeth as he tees off on the 17th hole during the first round of the Transitions golf tournament on Thursday, March 18, 2010, at Innisbrook in Palm Harbor, Fla.

AP

Washington: I also used marijuana, amphetamines

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP)—A day after acknowledging he failed a drug test for cocaine last year, Texas Rangers manager Ron Washington admits he used marijuana and amphetamines while he was a player.

"When you're young you make mistakes," Washington said Thursday. "I wish I could take back some of the mistakes I may have made, but I can't."

Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said Washington would keep his job. He said the team was aware Washington used drugs as a player.

"There's a distinction between what people do in their youth vs. later in life," he told a group of reporters, according to the Web site of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

"I'm sure there are things in our past we're not proud of. Ron could have avoided the question or lied and chose not to. I'm not going to punish him for being honest. That doesn't excuse the behavior but that's reality," Daniels said.

Washington made his latest admission before Texas played a "B" game against Milwaukee on a practice field.

On Wednesday, Washington said he tested positive for cocaine in a Major League Baseball test last July. He told Rangers management and MLB about the cocaine—he said he used it only once—before the test result and offered to resign. Texas president Nolan Ryan and team management allowed him to keep his job.

Washington did not detail how often he used marijuana and amphetamines, or describe what kind of amphetamines he took. The 57-year-old Washington played 10 seasons in the majors, mostly as an infielder for Minnesota in the 1980s—a decade when cocaine and amphetamine use in the majors was not uncommon.

Washington said his mistakes from years ago have nothing to do with the issue he's facing now.

"I made mistakes in my younger days," he said. "I want to get past it, move forward and get back on the field and start winning some ballgames."

All-Star third baseman Michael Young, the team's longest-tenured player, said what Washington did as a player was a non-issue in his eyes. He said discussion about amphetamine use among players in the 1970s and 1980s was a "slippery slope."

"We're hopeful this will bring us together, and we can rally around each other a little more," Young said. "Asking about dissension or a distraction, it's a fair question. But it's not relevant in this clubhouse. We have a solid group of guys in here and they're not going to judge somebody on a mistake and not on their worst moment."

All-Star outfielder Josh Hamilton, whose own drug troubles have been well chronicled, reiterated Thursday that he appreciated Washington's approach.

"The way he has handled the situation, I have more respect for him now," Hamilton said. "He didn't hide behind anything, didn't make excuses. He was honest and that's a quality you want in a leader, somebody who recognizes the mistakes and can tell you about them so you can learn from it."

Washington said he's received several messages from family, friends and former players over the past 48 hours and that "it was all love.

"These people know Ron Washington," he said. "I am a good person. No, I'm not a good person. I'm a damn good person. And I'm proud. And I fight. And I'm hungry. And I made a mistake."

Magic waste lead, then beat Heat in OT, 108-102

MIAMI (AP)—Vince Carter scored 27 points and Rashard Lewis added 24 including a huge 3-pointer with 28.4 seconds left as the Orlando Magic blew a 12-point lead in the final 5 minutes of regulation before beating the Miami Heat 108-102 in overtime Thursday.

Jameer Nelson scored 15, Matt Barnes finished with 13 and Dwight Howard had 10 points and 11 rebounds for the Magic, who've won 10 of their last 11 games.

Dwyane Wade had 36 points and 10 rebounds for Miami, which led 100-99 with 3:09 left in overtime, then went scoreless for nearly 2Ω minutes. Jermaine O'Neal scored 14 and Carlos Arroyo added 11 for the Heat.

Nuggets 93, Hornets 80

At Denver, Carmelo Anthony pulled down a career-best 18 rebounds to go with his 26 points to lead Denver past New Orleans.

Anthony recorded his third straight double-double and his ninth of the season.

Chris Andersen returned from two sprained ankles to help clog up the lanes and clean up the glass—he had 13 rebounds—as the Nuggets beat New Orleans for the second time in six nights. The Nuggets (47-22) moved a half-game ahead of Dallas for sole possession of second place in the Western Conference, 3 1/2 games behind the Los Angeles Lakers.

J.R. Smith scored 13 of his 17 points in the second quarter to help the Nuggets take control with a 62-37 lead at the half. His back-to-back fastbreak dunks, followed by a twisting layup capped a 13-0 run that gave Denver a 50-28 lead.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	43	24	.642	–
Toronto	33	33	.500	9 1/2
New York	24	44	.353	19 1/2
Philadelphia	24	44	.353	19 1/2
New Jersey	7	61	.103	36 1/2

Southeast Division

x-Orlando	49	21	.700	–
Atlanta	43	24	.642	4 1/2
Charlotte	35	32	.522	12 1/2
Miami	35	34	.507	13 1/2
Washington	21	45	.318	26

Central Division

y-Cleveland	54	15	.783	–
Milwaukee	36	30	.545	16 1/2
Chicago	31	36	.463	22
Detroit	23	45	.338	30 1/2
Indiana	22	46	.324	31 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	46	22	.676	–
San Antonio	40	26	.606	5
Houston	35	31	.530	10
Memphis	36	33	.522	10 1/2
New Orleans	33	37	.471	14

Northwest Division

Denver	47	22	.681	–
Utah	44	24	.647	2 1/2
Oklahoma City	41	25	.621	4 1/2
Portland	41	28	.594	6
Minnesota	14	55	.203	33

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	50	18	.735	–
Phoenix	42	26	.618	8
L.A. Clippers	26	43	.377	24 1/2
Sacramento	23	45	.338	27
Golden State	19	48	.284	30 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games
Orlando 108, Miami 102, OT
Denver 93, New Orleans 80

NBA LEADERS

SCORING

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, CLE	67	678	527	2004	29.9
Durant, OKC	66	641	580	1960	29.7
Anthony, DEN	55	554	430	1586	28.8
Bryant, LAL	63	637	390	1746	27.7
Wade, MIA	64	597	442	1699	26.5
Ellis, GOL	56	554	256	1424	25.4
Nowitzki, DAL	67	598	448	1676	25.0
Bosh, TOR	59	505	396	1414	24.0
Stoudemire, PHX	68	570	387	1528	22.5
Roy, POR	54	421	296	1205	22.3
Johnson, ATL	65	548	192	1396	21.5
Randolph, MEM	68	558	289	1416	20.8
Jackson, CHA	67	502	285	1394	20.8
Rose, CHI	64	548	201	1303	20.4
Evans, SAC	63	469	311	1281	20.3
Brooks, HOU	66	477	206	1329	20.1
Lee, NYK	68	574	219	1367	20.1
Maggette, GOL	57	375	383	1144	20.1
Billups, DEN	59	334	373	1174	19.9
Gay, MEM	67	507	250	1320	19.7

REBOUNDS

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	69	239	667	906	13.1
Randolph, MEM	68	282	524	806	11.9
Lee, NYK	68	183	613	796	11.7
Camby, POR	62	206	503	709	11.4
Boozer, UTA	65	147	583	730	11.2
Bosh, TOR	59	171	486	657	11.1
Bogut, MIL	60	183	444	627	10.5
Wallace, CHA	62	127	520	647	10.4
Duncan, SAN	63	193	460	653	10.4
Haywood, DAL	63	244	377	621	9.9

ASSISTS

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	67	750	11.2
Paul, NOR	38	424	11.2
Williams, UTA	62	641	10.3
Rondo, BOS	66	642	9.7
Kidd, DAL	66	611	9.3
James, CLE	67	575	8.6
Westbrook, OKC	66	528	8.0
Davis, LAC	67	534	8.0
Harris, NJN	50	335	6.7
Wade, MIA	64	417	6.5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

LITTLE LEAGUE LEADERS

MAJORS DIVISION
Batting

Name	Team	AB	H	AVE.
Franklin Lizama	Braves	7	7	1.000
Darion Jones	Twins	10	8	.800
Alden Ngeskebei	Dragons	9	7	.778
Logan Martin	Falcons	12	9	.750
Philip Sablan	Twins	11	8	.727
Craig Aguon	Red Sox	11	8	.727
Cedric Camacho	JPO	11	8	.727
Virolanson Secharmidal	Ol'Aces	11	8	.727
Robin Secharmidal	Ol'Aces	9	6	.667
Franco Nakamura	Red Sox	8	5	.625
Fred Songao	JPO	10	6	.600
Joseph Lifoifoi	Braves	10	6	.600
Christopher Sablan	Falcons	10	6	.600
Jesse Brel	Ol'Aces	17	10	.588
Ian Norita	Braves	12	7	.583

Runs

Jesse Brel	Ol'Aces	11
Virolanson Secharmidal	Ol'Aces	9
Franklin Lizama	Braves	7
Michael Muna	Ol'Aces	7

Doubles

Perry Celis	Strikers	3

Triples

Philip Sablan	Twins	4
Craig Aguon	Red Sox	2

Home runs

Franklin Lizama	Braves	1
Darion Jones	Twins	1
Jonrey Gilles	Athletics	1
Michael Muna	Ol'Aces	1
Jerald Cabrera	Dragons	1
Devyn Flores	Dragons	1

RBIs

Ian Norita	Braves	8
Philip Sablan	Twins	7
Craig Aguon	Red Sox	7
Joseph Lifoifoi	Braves	6
Cedric Camacho	JPO	6
Jesse Brel	Ol'Aces	6
Michael Muna	Ol'Aces	6

Pitching

	Team	Inning	ERA
Melvin Sakisat	Twins	8.2	0.00
Michael Muna	Ol'Aces	7	0.00
Terson Eina	Ol'Aces	6	0.00
Alfonso Evangelista	Falcons	9	0.66
Nathan Camacho	Dragons	15	0.80

Strikeouts

Nathan Camacho	Dragons	25
Perry Celis	Strikers	24
Jason Villagomez	Hustlers	21
Caleb Takao	Survivors	20
Darion Jones	Twins	19

NMIFA Women's League Standings

Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Matansa FC	5	4	0	1	13	5	+8	12
Paire FC	6	3	2	1	7	4	+3	11
MP United FC	6	1	2	3	7	9	-2	5
Independents FC	5	0	2	3	1	10	-9	2

Salalia, Gatus win Truggy and Slash races

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Radio Control Racers Club held races for gas-powered and electric-powered machines last March 7 at the track near Hollywood Video in As Lito.

Paul Salalia and Leo Gatus topped the Truggy Race (gas-powered) and Slash Short Course (electric-powered) events of the Saipan Radio Control Racers Club held last March 7.

The Truggy Race held three qualifying rounds and the Slash Short Course held two. The club holds practices every Saturday at the track near Hollywood Video in As Lito.

The first qualifying round in the Truggy Race was mainly a battle between Jude Dickinson Jr. and Rodney Catalla, but Catalla made the least mistakes and took Round 1.

In the second round, Dickinson and Catalla were in front again. This time Catalla encountered trouble on the last lap giving Dickinson an easy win.

During the third round, Catalla's car needed repairs and did not finish. In this round Dickinson drove flawlessly and posted the fastest time for the day to earn top qualifying position.

When the main race took place it was again a battle between Dickinson and Catalla. Catalla was runoff course early and never recovered. This turn of events enabled Paul Salalila to join Dickinson up at the front. Both drivers raced cleanly at a very fast pace. The lead exchanged a couple times, but in the end, Salalila took the checkered flag on the inside lane.

In the qualifiers Slash Short Course, Jojo Saracho showed everyone why he deserved to start up front by winning both qualifying rounds.

However, in the main race he choked early and was knocked to the back of the pack. Leo Gatus seized the day to take the lead and never looked back. Surprisingly, the main race ended with bottom qualifiers, Dickinson and Rico Dela Cruz, fighting their way to the podium. Dickison, who qualified second to last, drove consistently enough to earn the second place spot. Dela Cruz, in fifth qualifying position, jumped ahead early and held second place for most of the race until Dickinson passed him on the final lap.

PIC

From Page 28

and 3:28:18 in Tagaman for about an hour-lead over runner-up Mieko Carey. The Saipan triathlete posted 3:43:33 in XTERRA Saipan to finish fourth and second in Tagaman with a time of 3:32:58 for a total time of 7:17:14. Julie Dibens was second in XTERRA, but did not race in Tagaman. Kimiko Hasegawa was third in PIC Double, submitting a total time of 8:53:37, 4:33:01 in XTERRA and 4:20:36 in Tagaman.

This year, Bucher's rivals in the PIC Double are Carey, American pro Shonny Vanlandingham, and United Kingdom's Emma Ruth Smith and Darrelle Parker. Vanlandingham is behind Bucher by less than 10 minutes in XTERRA as the former timed in at 3:07:04 in last weekend's race. Carey was third in XTERRA (3:11:07) or more than 10 minutes behind Bucher's time. Smith timed in at 3:14:47 to finish fourth in XTERRA and Parker came in fifth at 3:39:23.

MAYWEATHER

From Page 28

test them in the future. The samples are screened for all drugs currently banned by the World Anti-Doping Agency, including human growth hormone and designer steroids such as THG.

Most state athletic commissions test only urine samples, which Tygart said cannot detect several performance-enhancing substances, including HGH.

"For the first time, you have professional athletes in the sport of boxing approaching us to implement an anti-doping program," Tygart said. "These athletes are courageous in their position and their desire to be held to the most stringent anti-doping standard."

Mayweather's insistence on Olympic-style testing is the primary reason negotiations fell through in January for a fight against pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao. Mayweather wanted blood tests up to 14 days before the fight, while Pacquiao claims he feels weak after drawing blood and would not agree to testing within 24 days.

Pacquiao promoter Bob Arum accused Mayweather of trying to get into his fighter's head by alleging that he used steroids. The negotiations quickly deteriorated, and Pacquiao signed to fight Joshua Clottey while Mayweather turned his attention to Mosley.

"With Floyd being the face of boxing, this is something that he has wanted to put forth," said Mayweather's adviser, Leonard Ellerbe. "Every fight from this point on that anybody steps into the ring with him will be subjected to this."

That begins with Mosley, who has acknowledged using steroids before a victory over Oscar De La Hoya in 2003. The four-time world champion claims he did so inadvertently through a strength and conditioning coach with connections to BALCO, the center of the scandal that enmeshed Barry Bonds and several other high-profile athletes.

Mosley filed a defamation lawsuit against Victor Conte after the BALCO founder said the boxer knowingly took performance-enhancing drugs.

"I want to be clear that Shane would not be doing this if there were any doubt in his mind that he's a clean athlete," said Mosley's lawyer, Judd Burstein. "Shane has never denied, right from the start, he made a mistake with respect to trusting Victor Conte."

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six teams with the selection process starting with captains/representatives of each squad picking cagebelles first from Division C then from the advanced pool or Division B

The order of the draft was determined via draw with CNMI Women's Nationals assistant coach Jose Tumaquip choosing first, followed by veteran player Connie Camacho, Elibie Sewell (representing captain Melody Matson), Toinette Smith, Amy Sletten, and CNMI Women's Nationals mentor Bill Sewell (representing Lynique Oveson).

Tumaquip used his first pick in Division C on Francine Babauta, who was absent on draft day held March 12. More than 20 players stayed for hours at the Ada Gym to wait for their turns at the draft. BANMI representative Gabriel White facilitated the draft.

Tumaquip's other picks in Division C were Geraldine Faisao, Wilani Sikyang, Cecille Nogis, and Rose Anne Tabora. In Division B, Tumaquip tabbed Marianas High School mainstay Lena Guzman in the first round and then chose Jamie Mendoza, Glorily Williams, and Roxanne Duenas in the succeeding rounds. Completing Tumaquip's squad is team captain Lia Rangamar.

Rangamar is among the six Division A players who did not have to go through the draft to join a team, as they were automatically chosen to become team captains of each squad.

While Babauta was the No. 1 pick in Division C, Ira Palero had the honor of being chosen as top pick in Division B and the latter went to the Oveson-captained squad or Team 6.

Joining Palero on the team are Joanna Palero, Daylinne Joseph, Mercedes Mesa, Yvette Bennett, Jeralyn Castillo, Zhe Dong, Ting Ting Juan, and Kaylani Lebria.

Camacho selected third in Division B and chose former Mt. Carmel School cagebelle Nicole Lebria. Camacho also picked Yvonne Bennett, Dion Diaz, Jeneque Benavente, Pauline Tudela, Love Me, Becky Mettao, Lisa Rose Laniyo, and Stacie Mizutani.

Former CNMI players Beverly Igitol and Vanessa Mobel will suit up for the Melody Matson-skippered team. Completing the squad are Riza Tacliad, Ines Kasian, Alisa Ekmart, Andrea and Christina Engelhardt, Lupe Anne Lizama, Hua Rai Yao, Elibie Sewell, and Emily Matson.

The Smith-captained team has five B players in Vanessa Pritchard, Jacque Wonenberg, Kiruu Tell, Nicole LeBlanc, and Tanishia Masga. Also in the roster are Yuan Yuan Sun, Fei Zhuang, Lin Lin Jia, and Si Ying Chen.

Sletten, who personally picked her teammates on the draft day, selected shooter Lalaine Pagarao, Patsylyn Jetley, Nikita Hofschneider, and Brigida Magofna from Division B and Natalie Hill, Bai Qing Tian, Debra Tiwai, Asia Michalum, and Jhie Vallo from Division C.

The women's league will kick off simultaneously with the BANMI men's caging, which is tentatively set to start next month. Games in the women's league will be played first every Monday and Friday.

MOBEL

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United had the lead in the first half, 2-1, but left Mobel open inside the penalty box two times to drop the match.

Nikki Gabaldon drew first blood for MP United before Mobel tied the match with her own first goal. At the break, MP United had the lead, 2-1, after Nola Hix also made it to the scoreboard.

The first few minutes of the second half was a bit frustrating for Paire and MP United, as neither team seemed to get full control of the ball.

After scoring Paire's first goal, Mobel then had to concentrate on defense, replacing Stephanie Camacho, who had to take a few minutes out of the field. MP United was still ahead, 2-1, when Camacho returned, moving Mobel back to midfield.

A few minutes after getting her old job, Mobel found herself inside the penalty box and knocked one in to tie the match, 2-2.

MP United was still recovering from its previous defensive lapse when Mobel again was left open inside the penalty box and found the back of the net to give Paire the lead and the win.

With her hat trick, Mobel joined four other female strikers with multiple goals after Tuesday's game.

Lindsay Davis of the league-leading Matansa (4-0-1) has earned the most goals in the league as of March 16, making five. MP United's Carrie Schuler has scored three, while Paire's Elisa Fejeran and Matansa's Melody Matson have tallied two apiece.

Hix and Gabaldon have joined five others—Matansa's Natalie Hill and Lynique Oveson, MP United's Katie Peters and Brianna Martin, and Independents' Katie Busenkell—who at least have scored one goal each.

Ohio stuns Georgetown in tournament opener

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

82 days to go before SOUTH AFRICA 2010 FIFA WORLD CUP

PIC Double at stake in Tagaman

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

XTERRA Saipan Championship winners Sam Gardner and Renata Bucher will try to earn return trip tickets here next year as they go for victories in today's 2010 Tagaman Triathlon.

Gardner ruled last week's XTERRA Saipan Champion in record time, clocking in at two hours, 34 minutes, and three seconds, for his back-to-back men's pro title. Bucher notched her sixth straight XTERRA Saipan win after timing in at 2:58:19.

Another top finish in today's road race will give Bucher and Gardner the PIC Double titles. PIC Double winners are determined by combining participants' times in XTERRA and Tagaman. Winners in the men's and women's divisions will receive $500 cash each, roundtrip tickets for the two triathlon events, and a seven-night stay for two accommodation with meals at the Pacific Islands Club.

Last year, Gardner had a combined time of 5:36:35, 15 minutes ahead of 2008 PIC Double winner Andrew Noble (5:51:30) of Australia. Noble lost in the 2009 PIC Double after placing only fourth in XTERRA and third in Tagaman. Gardner ruled XTERRA and was runner-up to Masauki Matsumaru of Japan in Tagaman. Jim McConnell of the United Kingdom was third in the PIC Double with his combined time of 6:09:15. McConnell was sixth (2:52:34) in XTERRA Saipan and fifth (3:11:41) in Tagaman.

This year's PIC Double race in the men's division will be a close fight, as Gardner is only ahead by 43 seconds against Canada's Mike Vine, who did not join last year's Tagaman. Others hoping to finish in the Top 3 in the PIC Double are Australia pro Jason Chalker (2:49:10) and United Kingdom bet Michael Hiscott (3:06:20).

In the women's division, Bucher submitted a total time of 6:24:35 last year. She clocked in at 2:56:55 in XTERRA

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Renata Bucher, right, and Mieko Carey arrive at the transition area to check on their bikes before the morning race in the 2010 XTERRA Saipan Championship last week.

Mobel hat trick lifts Paire past MP United

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Vanessa Mobel was at the right place at the right time, coming up with a hat trick to lead Paire Football Club to a 3-2 win over MP United during their game in the 2010 NMIFA Women's Spring League on Tuesday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association

The victory was third for Paire, allowing the team to remain in second place in the team standings in the four-squad league. Paire had played six games, recorded two draws and one loss for 11 points.

MP United had also recorded six matches, won twice, and had one draw and three losses. MP

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Paire Football Club's Connie Camacho (red uniform), and MP United's Brianna Martin battle for the ball during their game in the NMIFA women's spring league on Tuesday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mayweather, Mosley embrace Olympic-style drug test

DAVE SKRETTA
AP SPORTS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Floyd Mayweather Jr. and welterweight champion Shane Mosley will undergo Olympic-style drug testing for their May 1 fight in Las Vegas, which they hope will set a new standard for boxing.

Representatives of the two fighters joined Travis Tygart of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency on a conference call Thursday to discuss the program, which is more extensive than the testing that currently falls under the jurisdiction of state athletic commissions.

"This is one of the biggest events I've seen in the sport of boxing, and if this introduces Olympic-style testing to boxing, we not only have delivered a great fight but also leveled the field for athletes," Richard Schaefer of Golden Boy Promotions said.

Mayweather and Mosley will be subjected to an unlimited number of unannounced blood and urine tests before and after the fight, and the results will be stored so USADA can

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Floyd Mayweather, left, and current WBA welterweight super champion Shane Mosley exchange words during a news conference in New York, Tuesday, March 2, 2010.

AP

55 drafted in CNMI women's caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Teams have been formed for the 2010 CNMI Women's Basketball League with the organizing Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands facilitating a draft at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last week.

Fifty-five players were drafted by

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Female players wait for their names to be called during last week's draft in the 2010 CNMI Women's Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO